

THE STORY OF
DRESDEN

1825 - 1967



by Alda L. Hyatt

Bonnie Cross

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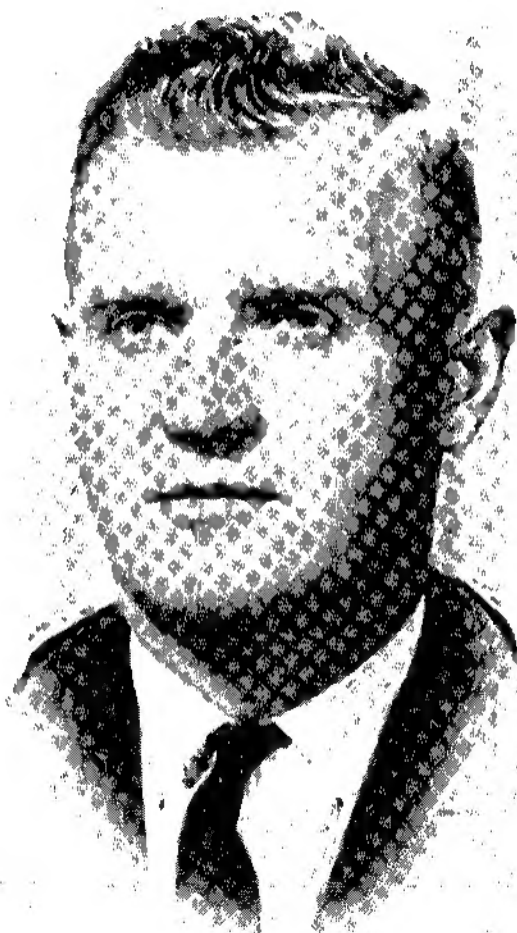


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BY ALDA HYATT

Corporation of the Town of Dresden





MAYOR JOHN F. FINLEY



ALDA L. HYATT

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EARLY SETTLEMENT

EARLY INHABITANTS.....

Scattered Indian Villages dotted the land before 1790, comprising the present County of Kent in which the Town of Dresden is located.

Trails through dense forests led to rivers and lakes teeming with fish. Wild flowers grew in profusion beneath and magnificent elm, maple, oak, walnut, beech and whitewood trees.

Bears, deer, foxes, and wolves roamed throughout the territory at will. Ducks, geese, wild turkey and all manner of birds nested along the river banks and in the marshes. They were watched over by the Great Manitou.

Colonel McKee, an officer in the British Army headed a delegation representing the King's government in negotiating a commercial agreement with the Chippewa, Ottawa, Huron and Potawatomi Indian Nations.

In May 1790, the McKee Treaty was signed. The Indians relinquished ownership of lands, now Essex, Kent, Elgin, the western part of Middlesex and the southern fringe of Lambton Counties, for goods totaling 1,200 pounds sterling or approximately \$5,800.00. Also included were a quantity of blankets, scarlet cloth, ribbons and thread, black silk handkerchiefs, guns and ammunition, looking glasses and fish hooks, brass kettles, scissors, horn combs, firesteels and pipes, 39 gallons of rum, a bullock, 400 lbs. of tobacco, 24 lace hats, 11 gross of pipes and 2 gross of knives.

Before and after the Americans had won their War of Independence many people in the Colonies remained loyal to England. They refused to bear arms against her, consequently after hostilities ceased they were treated harshly by their former neighbours and friends. Some of these United Empire Loyalists moved to the Michigan Territory around Detroit which was a British possession. Others remained, although their lands had been confiscated and lived in poverty, until their plight became known to England. England gave the Loyalists transportation to Canada and land grants of 200 acres each with provisions for a time after settling here.

British soldiers were encouraged to stay in Canada and they were given land grants according to their rank as well as half pay.

Patrick McNiff a government surveyor laid out lots along the Thames river in 1790 and 1791.

Camden Township's first white child born was Nathan Cornwall in 1800. His father, Joshua, settled near the present location of Thamesville in 1796.

An error in land deeds was responsible for the areas next settlers in 1820. They discovered land on the Talbot Road, where they had made some clearing and improvement had been previously deeded to others. As compensation, the Government gave them grants of 300 acres each on the Sydenham River between Dawn Mills and Florence. These pioneers were John and William Tiffin, Job Hall, and a family named Bolton. Their nearest neighbours were the Cornwalls and Shermans near Thamesville and at the present location of Wallaceburg, the settler, Lachlan McDougal.

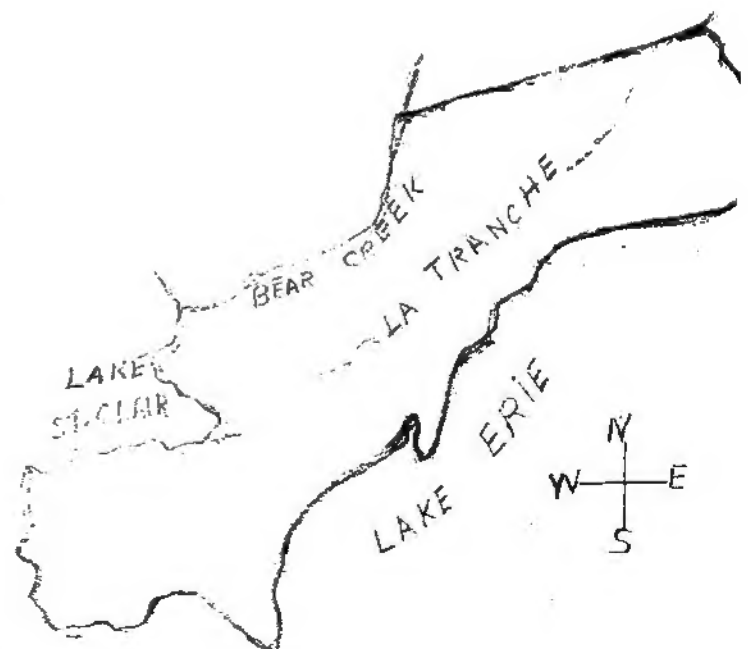
EARLY SETTLERS.....

In the early spring of 1825, Gerald Lindsley chartered the schooner Olive Branch at Chatham and sailed up Bear Creek, as the Sydenham was then called, to his grant of land which later became the south east part of Dresden. Darkness had fallen and Lindsley remained on the vessel until morning. After scanning his farm a site was chosen near a spring of clear water. The captain of the schooner cut the first tree used in building a log shelter. The location of the house was on the river bank at the east end of the present Lindsley Street and a barn was built nearby to shelter livestock. Lindsley cleared a small plot of land where he grew sufficient grain for his own use. Although there was a grist mill at Chatham, it was quicker to carry the grain to Detroit by canoe and dugout, to have them made into flour, than to travel the hazardous journey through dense forests lying between the Sydenham and the Thames Rivers.

The next settler on the location of Dresden was Abraham Devens, a United Empire Loyalist, from Pennsylvania. He had come to Canada in 1783 and settled at the present Toronto. Devens walked from Toronto to his farm, now the north east section of Dresden, and arrived here in 1844. He built his log home on the high banks of the river across from Metcalfe and Water Streets. Records for the years 1849 and 1850 show Devens raised and harvested grain and other crops. Devens raised a large family and many of his descendants live in the area in 1967.

Josiah Henson brought his family to live on the farm he had previously bought for \$4.00 an acre. The land was located on lot 2, concession 4, Dawn Township, now Camden Gore. The year was 1842. Henson left his sons in charge of the farm as he travelled the American States and England lecturing and raising money to help defray the cost of the British American Institute, which he was instrumental in starting. Besides farming, Henson was proprietor of a general store near Water and Sydenham Streets, and was also religious advisor to his people, as Pastor of the British Methodist Episcopal Church until his death in 1883. He is buried south west of town where his grave has become an historical landmark.

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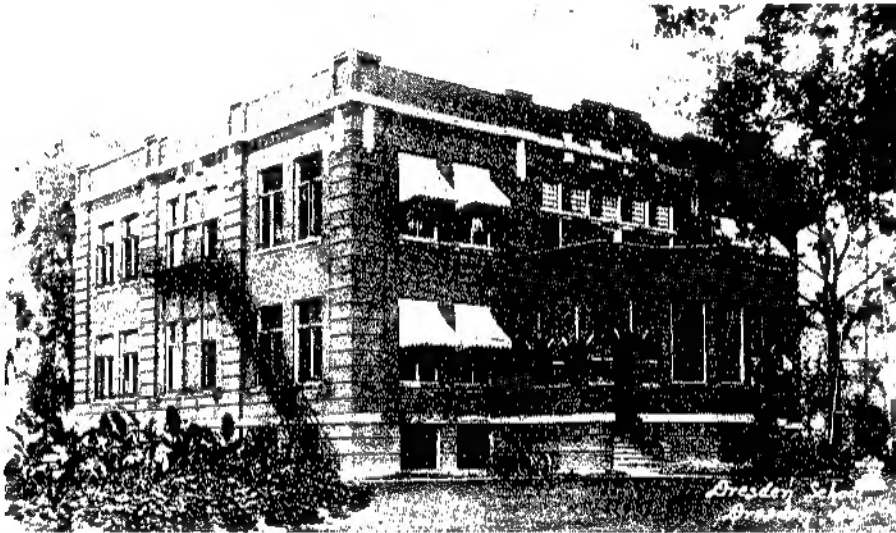


1790 TREATY LANDS

Town Development



POST OFFICE
Courtesy of The Dresden News



Dresden Public School
Courtesy of Hugh Turner

Town Hall - 1874
Courtesy of Hugh Turner

Early Settlement

DAWN MILLS.....

In the year 1830, two enterprising men, William Taylor and James Smith, seeing the need of a mill in the district, located at Dawn Mills and built a grist mill on the Sydenham River. It was called Dawn Mills because all the land to the Base Line was still in the Township of Dawn. The settlers came to the mill in increased numbers and soon a store was established there to supply them with needed provisions. Charles Prangle was chief miller in the Taylor and Smith Mill. Mr. Baxter opened the store which was the first in the township. Later, Mr. Taylor of the Taylor and Smith Mill, became a partner in the Baxter store. The place soon became a meeting centre for settlers and a tavern and blacksmith shop located there. It appeared that the place would soon become an important trading centre. It was for a time, but later, when Dresden became settled, the rapids on the river were found to be too much of a hindrance to traffic up to Dawn Mills and the trade was soon transferred to Dresden.

The banks of the Sydenham, between Dawn Mills and the present site of Dresden, did not become settled for some time after a considerable village was formed at Dawn Mills. The Sharpe family located on the south side of the river and a family named Traxler settled on the north side.

Up to the year 1834, Dawn, Camden and Zone Township were under the same municipal government. In 1835, Dawn Township, which still included Camden Gore, became a separate municipality. The records for that year show that there were in the township; 3 frame houses, 2 grist mills, 4 saw mills, 288 horses, 264 oxen, 351 cows and 48 other cattle on which taxes were paid.

The amount collected was \$26--18s--1d from 85 persons who were tax payers at the time. The family names of the chief settlers were; Allen, Butler, Burwell, Brundage, Bolton, Bole, Bedford, Blakesley, Brown, Blackburn, Cyre, Collins, Crafts, Covell, Crow, Chambers, Cleveland, Desmond, Drury, Edwards, Farslow, Granger, Gregg, Gillespie, Hall, Huston, Hannan, Harris, Howe, Holmes, Johnson, Laird, Langford, Long, Lepscombe, Lutz, Lindsay, Mawlan, Morton, Mapes, Miller, Montgomery, McGregor, McLennan, O'Reilly, Page, Perry, Phelps, Proctor, Simmons, Scarlett, Slater, Snider, Smith, Sharp, Toles, Tiffin, Taylor, Vail, Ward, Williams, Willowby, Warin, Waller and Wilder. Most of these settlers were located at the southern part of the township and many of their descendants reside in the Dresden district at this time.



John D. Henson

BRITISH AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Fugitive slaves had escaped from the United States to sanctuary in Canada as early as 1828. They settled along the south bank of the Sydenham River west of the present site of Dresden. Although they enjoyed freedom in the new land, they were subject to capture and return to their former slave owners. Josiah Henson had related the plight of his people to a Congregational Missionary, Hiram Wilson, at Colchester, Essex County. He in turn told a Quaker friend, James C. Fuller, who was going to England. While there, Fuller raised thirteen hundred dollars and gave it to Wilson and Henson. They called a meeting with other interested sympathizers and it was decided to buy land and establish an Institution where escaped slaves could be assisted and taught to be self sufficient.

Since there was already some escaped slaves, and land was available, they purchased lot three, concession four, in Dawn Township and built a long story and a half log building at the west end of the present Hughes Street. Here the fugitives were taught various trades and also boarded until they could establish farms of their own. A saw mill was erected and timber became a source of revenue. At the International Show in England, Henson displayed Walnut boards finished at the Institute and accepted orders on behalf of the Institute. The mill was managed by an appointee of the Institute and Hiram Wilson and later Eli Birkland were teachers. Josiah Henson raised the largest portion of the operating funds and building expenses, which included a saw mill and a grist mill.

After returning from one of his trips to England Henson found the mill had been mismanaged. The Institute owed many debts, the mill workers had been paid little and as a result, many had left. A dispute arose between the manager and the settlers on the control of the grist mill. Henson received power of attorney from the colonists and started a law suit to take the property away from the control of the manager.

Under the pretext of replenishing supplies, the saw mill manager loaded boats with the best timber. When he did not return, the workers destroyed the mill and left the area. The log building erected in the early days of the Institute had been dismantled by the manager, who promised to rebuild it later. This was never accomplished. Henson, seeing the Institute was about to break up, moved the grist mill in the night to a location on the river bank between the east end of Main and Brock Streets.

The cost of the lawsuit was financed by a mortgage Henson had placed on the corporate lands. This amounted to \$800.00 before the Courts ended the suit and appointed new Trustees and gave them authority to sell the land at public auction. The auction was held in 1871 and the land originally bought for twelve hundred dollars was sold for \$40,000.00.

After the debts were paid, the remainder was placed in trust. Later, the Wilberforce Institute, a High School, was erected in Chatham for coloured students. This was used until the High School became available to all children.

The British American Institute was sometimes called the Dawn Institute. It covered the south eastern part of the present Dresden, from Queen Street on the north, St. George Street and North Street on the east and extending west to the third concession of Dawn Township, now Camden Gore.

* * * * *

Note---The account of Dawn Mills was taken from "A History Of Dresden" by the late Robert Brandon, (by special permission), and has not been altered in any way.

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

VANALLEN and WRIGHT SURVEY.....

William Van Allen and his son Henry purchased the Gerald Lindsley farm in 1846. The farm had not been cleared and the Van Allen's, who were farmers, gave little thought to the area with its enormous timber resources and the natural transportation route on the Sydenham River. Another son Daniel R. Van Allen, while visiting his father and brother persuaded them to have the farm surveyed into 63 town lots, the survey was completed in 1852 and advertisements were placed in newspapers offering free land to mechanics. Settlers from Napanee and other eastern United Empire Loyalist communities came to the townsite known as Dresden.

At the time of the survey the Van Allen's built a small log store on the river bank at the south east corner of the present Lindsley and Metcalf Streets. The store became known as Kirly's Tavern dispensing Provisions, beer and spirits to the local and incoming settlers. A large warehouse built on the south side of the river and east of the bridge was later used for a store and run by Mr. Blackwood and Mr. Baxter. In 1854 the first Post Office was located in this store.

William Wright, an early settler, owned land south of Main Street, and East of St. George Street to the river. He built his first shelter on Water Street, between Main and Brock Streets, and it was part log cabin and part Indian wigwam, but it served the purpose until he constructed a second building on the corner of Water and Sydenham Streets, where he operated a store and general meeting place where he sold spirits as well as provisions.

In 1854 Wright laid out lots on the south side of Main Street, and named his village Fairport, and since the Postal Authorities had given the name of Dresden to the community, Fairport was not generally used, (except on the assessors rolls--in 1873 property owners of an area called Fairport asked a property tax adjustment.)

* * * * *

TOWN HALL.....

The need for public buildings was recognized by the second village council in 1873 and plans were made to house all the village officers under one roof. Debentures were issued for \$8,000 and Dresden's first community building was constructed on the south-east corner of the Market Square. The two story brick structure had on the upper floor a concert hall, stage and balcony and the lower floor was divided with market stalls and in the north-east corner a two-cell jail for short term guests. A bell tower in the front end held the bell donated by the Van Allen family, which was sounded at noon and nine o'clock at night, and on special occasions.

A clerk was appointed to collect rental fees from the market stalls and to keep order. All kinds of farm produce, meats, eggs and poultry as well as dry goods were offered for sale, and until stores became more numerous on St. George Street the Market Square was the central business block.

Number Three Division Court was established in the town hall in 1875. The town council and village council held their meetings at the hall for several years also.

The hall was rented for concerts, plays, debates, political meetings, church, balls and auction sales. Besides the regular rental fee the council charged an additional dollar to pay the royalty on music in 1873. A volunteer company used the former market space on the lower floor to drill in 1915.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" was performed in 1916, a one nighter by the Lincoln Stock Company, admission 15 and 25 cents. Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" was also offered professionally and local thespians entertained the townspeople with huge productions of comedy and drama.

In 1942, early in the morning of March 18th, the Dresden

SCHOOLS.....

As early as 1840, the first school in the settlement at Dresden was in operation. This unique venture had the task of teaching the new settlers who had recently escaped from slavery in the southern United States, the rudiments of survival in this strange and cold land. The school, a long log building located at the west end of Hughes Street, was also a temporary shelter for these families.

Hiram Wilson, the first teacher, probably did not dwell on the three R's, he was likely more concerned with teaching the men and boys farming and the timber business and girls to cook and sew.

Most children of the early settlers had no formal elementary education and families relied on relatives or paid tutors in order for their sons to gain admission to the secondary or grammar schools which were established first in Upper Canada.

A common school was in use in 1862 on land now occupied by the Board of Works where both boys and girls attended. About 1872 a frame school was constructed near the present Jackson Park, and the coloured children of the settlement attended there until it burned a few years later.

School District No. 2 was replaced with a village-controlled school in 1873, when land on the north side of Dresden was purchased to build a four room brick school costing the taxpayers \$3,500. These class rooms soon became overcrowded and a two room frame building was added to the site. There were six teachers in the three schools at Dresden in 1881. When the school for the coloured children burned they used the town hall for a time and then all the children of the village attended the same school.

Classes were again held in the town hall in 1911 while the eight room brick school was under construction on the school grounds. This served the public and continuation school students until overcrowding in the 1920's made it necessary to purchase a small brick cottage on the north-east corner of the grounds for the primer classes. The cottage was owned by a Mr. Pearson and was kept in operation until a two-room addition was made to the larger building. Again classrooms were needed and in 1945 and 1949 two buildings were erected on the north-west corner of the property.

In 1886 the county council was asked to make Dresden the centre of a District High School. The request was granted just 66 years later and the Lambton-Kent High School was constructed on land in the south part of town where classes began in September 1953.

Kindergarten classes were first held in Dresden in a rented building on Main St. near the Public Library in 1948 with twenty-one pupils attending the morning session and nineteen in the afternoon.

A new Composite Secondary School, costing three and one half million dollars is presently being built on the Public School property in north Dresden scheduled to open September 1967. It will serve the eight surrounding municipalities including Dresden.

The Dresden, Thamesville, Chatham and Camden Township School District will occupy the former Lambton-Kent District High School buildings in the fall of 1967. The existing classrooms must be added to with a four-room addition.

* * * * *

Hall fell to the ravages of fire, despite outside fire companies' assistance and the old hall having served the community for 68 years passed into the annals of Dresden history.



1967 DRESDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Front row left to right, Reeve Wilfred Shaw, Mayor John Finlay, Clerk James Babcock
Back row left to right, Deputy Reeve Tony Stranak, Councilors: John S. Neil,
Stanley Webster, G.L. Dunlop, Harold Law, Casper Faas, Melvin McKaig

Town Development

COUNCIL.....

Proclaimed a Village in 1871, the first session of council of the Corporation of the Village of Dresden met in a rented room at Shaw's Hotel on the north east corner of St. George and Main Streets, January 15, 1872. Reeve Alexander Trerice, with councilors Alex Watson, C. M. Clancy, W. G. Huff and Horatio Hughes, appointed at this meeting, John Chapple, clerk, C. R. Watson as treasurer, Jacob Ellis, W. V. Hicks, Jacob Killam, pathmasters for road purposes, T. W. Davis, John Scratch, fence viewers, J. L. Leonard, licence inspector and a pound keeper and chimney and stovepipe inspector.

Among the first bylaws passed by the council was a fire law whereby fire balls, squibs or firecrackers should not be ignited within the village limits. Also a bylaw controlling the height of chimneys and the material to be used.

In the following ten years Dresden had its fastest growth in business, industry and population and public works with new school town hall, roads, streets and covered drains among the accomplishments.

The last village council with Reeve Redford Kimmerly, councilors R. P. Wright, I. B. Webster, Jacob Killam and I. N. Carscallen continued in office for the remainder of the year when the Village with a population of 2080 became a Town on March 8, 1881.

Alexander Trerice elected the Town of Dresden's first Mayor Reeve James Stephens and from the three wards of North, Centre and South the Councilors Wright, Cuthbert, Rudd, McGloghlin, Livingston, Switzer, Carscallen and Weston. John Chapple remained clerk until 1893. Mr. Chapple used fine penmanship in The Minutes of The Council, and it is interesting to note the use of the double s, session was spelled (sefsion).

Many public spirited men have guided Dresden to its present prosperity, fulfilling the trust of the electors, and the council of 1967 with Mayor John Finley, Reeve Wilfred Shaw, Deputy Reeve Tony Stranak, Councilors Stanley Webster, Casper Faas, G. L. 'Pat' Dunlop, Jack Neil, Harold Law and Melvin McKaig and clerk J. L. Babcock are ably conducting the business of the town.

The council chambers are now located in the former Post Office which was the site of the first council meetings in 1872 and officially opened January 1967.

DRESDEN MAYORS SINCE 1882

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1882-Alexander Trerice | 1911-Asa Ribble |
| 1883-C. Livingston | 1912-1915-Dr. H. S. McDonald |
| 1884-J. W. Sharpe | 1916-Charles Aikin |
| 1885-J. W. Sharpe | 1917-1919-E. B. Madden |
| 1886-Redford Kimmerly | 1920-M. C. A. Humphrey |
| 1887-Alexander Trerice | 1921-1922-Peter A. McDuffe |
| 1888-R. P. Wright | 1923-C. G. Carster |
| 1889-Asa Ribble | 1924-1926-Arthur Hoyles |
| 1890-Asa Ribble | 1927-1929-Walter S. Weese |
| 1891-J. W. Sharpe | 1930-Arthur Hoyles |
| 1892-J. W. Sharpe | 1931-Walter Weese |
| 1893-R. P. Wright | 1932-1933-R. E. Carscallen |
| 1895-D. V. Hicks | 1934-Walter S. Weese |
| 1896-I. N. Carscallen | 1935-1936-George E. Clark |
| 1897-H. Weston | 1937-1938-Arthur Hoyles |
| 1898-R. Aikin | 1939-1940-George E. Clark |
| 1899-J. W. Sharpe | 1941-1948-Arthur Hoyles |
| 1900-W. G. Cragg | 1949-1951-Walter S. Weese |
| 1901-Asa Ribble | 1952-Harold McKim |
| 1902-Asa Ribble | 1953-Donald Thomson |
| 1903-Asa Ribble | 1954-Francis Foster |
| 1904-Asa Ribble | 1955-Roy D. Stevenson |
| 1905-Asa Ribble | 1956-Douglas Weese |
| 1906-Dr. J. I. Wiley | 1957-1959-Douglas Weese |
| 1907-E. N. Dever | 1960-Roy Stevenson |
| 1908-N. B. Carscallen | 1961-1962-Roy Stevenson |
| 1909-N. B. Carscallen | 1963-1965-Dr. P. Laird Gibbs |
| 1910-L. Hughson | 1966-1967-John Finley |

POLICE DEPARTMENT.....

Until 1875 law and order was enforced by a County Sheriff, in the Village of Dresden. Pound Keepers, Fence Viewers, Path Masters and Inspectors of Chimneys had authority to arrest and jail law breakers. The first 'Lock Up' was a room rented by the council in February 1872.

John Fretz, Dresden's first Chief Constable in 1875 was followed by D. J. Huff in 1883 who was paid an annual salary of \$36.00.

Early town police performed in the office of Health Inspector, Truant Officer and Chief of the Fire Department. After the Dresden Public Library was completed, the position of caretaker was added to the regular duties of keeping the peace.

Ontario Provincial Police Officer Lester Howell used a motor cycle as he patrolled outlying areas from the one-man post at his residence on Hughes Street, from the early 1930's to around 1950 when he was transferred to Chatham and the new quarters.

Dresden Town Council appointed and controlled the local police department until 1948 when a Police Commission was established with the mayor, county judge and a provincial magistrate comprising the board.

A motion by member of the council to provide the Town Constable with a bicycle in 1934 was apparently shelved and if transportation was required the officer used his own vehicle. A patrol car was secured by the town around 1958 and was equipped with a radio telephone. Radio replaced the telephone system in 1966, forming an efficient link with other law enforcement departments, and is controlling to some extent accidents caused by high rates of speed.

The police office and jail were located in the town hall from 1874 until it burned in 1942, when the department used the former hydro office on St. George Street. In 1960 and Dresden Police Department moved to new quarters in the municipal building on St. George and Main Streets.

Present day law enforcement is provided by Chief of Police Alvin C. Watson and Constables Joseph Hodulik, Dennis Stanley and the newest member of the force, Larry Dickson, who patrol Dresden's 700 square acres averaging 2,300 miles each month by car and uncounted miles by foot, to give residents around-the-clock protection.

* * * * *



Isaac Trerice

Town Development

LIGHTS.....

Lanterns and lamps on buildings provided the illumination for night travel in Dresden before 1879, when the village council furnished lamps on the bridge, and near-by residents were charged with their lighting and cleaning. Later in the year, six additional lamps were placed on busy street corners and a Lamp Lighter was employed to clean, trim, refuel and light the beacons each night at dusk.

William F. Jamieson, an enterprising young man, had learned the mechanics of electricity through a correspondence course and built a generator in 1889 on Water Street between Main and Brock. He erected poles on a few streets and sold electric power to private residents. Soon the town contracted to light some of the main streets for 10 cents a light each night and continued the arrangement until 1901 when the town purchased the plant for \$10,000, making Mr. Jamieson the manager.

Candles and lamps were still kept handy, because the electric lights were turned off at 11 o'clock every night and 12 on Saturday.

Dresden continued to generate its own power until 1908 when the Ontario Hydro was brought into town and replaced the small plant with a sub station located on St. George Street, south of the Presbyterian Church.

The Dresden Hydro Commission built a \$26,000 office and garage on Main Street between Tecumseh and Water streets in 1951 and the sub-station on Centre Street was leased from the Ontario Hydro.

The Dresden Utilities Commission installed a larger sub-station at the rear of the office on Main Street in 1966, which is owned by the municipality. Although the cost was \$27,000 it is capable of supplying double the amount of hydro power used now, and will easily accommodate future development.

* * * * *

WATER.....

Clear, cold spring water bubbling from the ground supplied the Gerald Lindsleys with good drinking water in 1825 and as more settlers arrived at Dresden, wells were dug and lined with stone or boards and water was drawn up by pail and rope. Wood-en pumps, and later, iron pumps were employed to bring water to the top. As time passed, iron pipes were forced into the ground to form a casing and a smaller iron tube was placed inside. These wells were called rock wells, as some were deep in the ground and resting on bed rock.

The town was divided into sections and large water tanks were kept filled for fire purposes. A survey plan, printed in 1889, gave as the water supply the Sydenham River and four tanks. One tank, on the south-east corner of St. George Street, at the bridge, was elevated. The other three, at Queen and St. George Streets, Hughes and St. George and West and Robinson Streets, were long and built on the ground.

All water except for drinking was taken from the Sydenham River. A waterworks system was established in Dresden in 1911, when \$16,000 was spent on water lines to supply the town with water for fire protection, and other non-household uses. A water tank, erected in 1920, gave constant pressure in the mains, at any time of the day or night.

From a well on the third concession Camden Gore, capable of pumping 400 gallons per minute, Dresden obtained its first pure water at a cost of \$39,000 in 1943. In a short time this well became clogged and a second was dug on the site, but it also was unsatisfactory. Then three supplemental wells were dug in the town, near St. George and Davies Streets, at a site near the Camden Township office and one at the southern limits of town on North Street.

To insure adequate water the town attempted to build a processing station on the river bank on Water Street. The excavations were completed and when pouring the cement six of the workmen became trapped in a cave in. After the disaster, the site was changed and a processing plant was built further east on the river bank, where chemicals are added and water not used is stored in the wells on the third concession, to be used at a later time.

The water department is a branch of the Dresden Utilities Commission with James Coyle, chairman, Orlo Martin, commissioner and Fred Bridle, manager.

CEMETERY.....

Until 1872, at least two burying grounds were used in the area of town, one on the British American Institute property near the river at the west end of Holden Street, and the other on the slight hill on the east side of North Street, between Main and Brock Streets.

At a session of the village council in 1872, a notice was served on the residents to discontinue the use of the burying plot on North Street.

The council at this meeting appointed a committee to find a more suitable site, and they reported a piece of ground was available north-east of the village, and that a right of way for a road could be secured from a Mr. Whitson through his farm. The new street was named Trerice Street in honour of Alex Trerice.

The new cemetery, consisting of six acres, was purchased from the Clergy Lands owned by the Church of England, for \$600.00 and the remains from the old burying grounds were removed to the present Dresden Cemetery.

Because the new cemetery was heavily timbered, tenders were asked to clear the land, and only those maples that were marked were left to become part of the landscape.

Later the Anglican Church sold a portion of land to the Roman Catholic congregation; and a board of supervisors was created, one from the village, one from the Anglican Church and one from the Catholic Church to administer the affairs of the cemetery. In 1963 the Anglican Church asked to be relieved of this responsibility and felt the section known as 'Protestant' should become community property and the Town Council appointed a member to fill the vacancy.

The first caretaker appointed by the village was John Curr, on a temporary basis until a permanent caretaker could be found. He also was to supervise the clearing of the grounds.

Caretaker for many years was Mr. Walter Babcock and continuing the neat and excellent care of the cemetery in 1967 is Mr. Goldie Oliphant the present caretaker.

In recent years the cemetery has been enlarged and is distinguished by the symmetrical rows of the monuments.

A section near the entrance is maintained by the Dresden Legion Branch as a memorial to the fallen heroes of two World Wars and the Korean War, and is known as Flanders Field.

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GAS.....

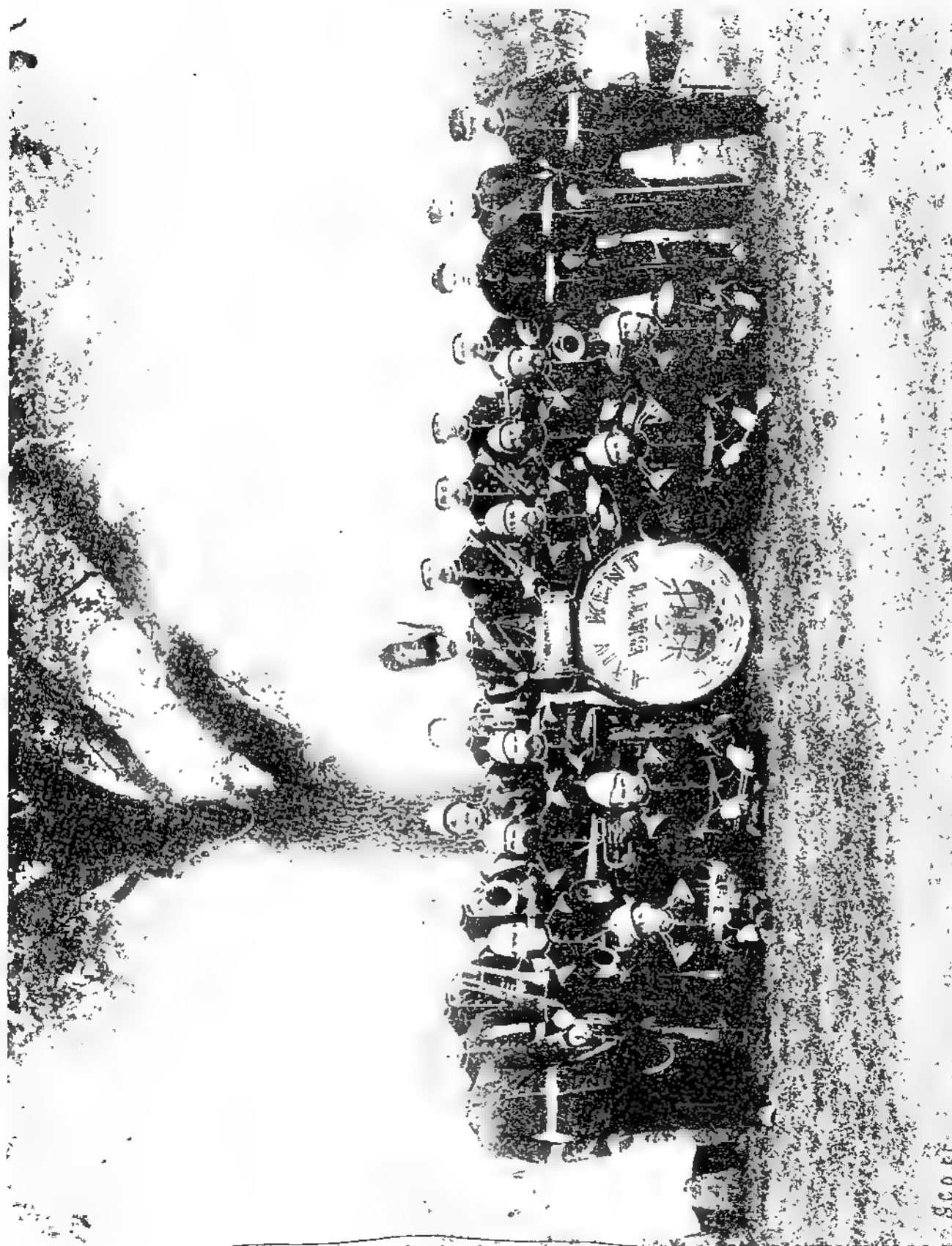
Prior to the year 1909, the residents and merchants at Dresden used wood and coal to heat the homes and stores and wood was used for cooking as well. The supply of wood became less abundant and the price rose and many families changed to coal, especially for heating.

The Union Gas Company received permission from the town to pipe the natural gas into the town for residential use in 1909, and gas soon became a popular fuel for cooking and later it was used to heat the homes.

The first manager of the Union Gas Company was James Monroe, who served until Duncan Pattison took over the managership in 1913 and continued in that office until his retirement in 1943. The office was located on the south-east corner of Main and Tecumseh Streets, until the new office and show room was built on North Street in 1955.

Following the retirement of Mr. Pattison, Douglas Gibson became the local manager. The company presently supplies 1,200 town and rural homes and businesses with natural gas and have cooking ranges, furnaces, incinerators, and space heaters available at the office.

Comprising the staff of the Dresden Union Gas Company besides Douglas Gibson is Mrs. Vera Blackburn, Donald Brewer and Ross Babcock.



Military Band 1891

BAND.....

Music has held a prominent place in the community, from the first fiddlers' hoedown after the house raising to the present-day parade with the Dresden Community Band in the lead. It was only natural that the music lovers in the town form a band and since many wished to participate and few instruments were owned, a delegation asked the town council to assist by paying for uniforms, instruments and to hire a teacher. The request was not granted because the town had undertaken many improvements in 1876. However the band was formed and some of the first members were Joseph Shaw, Alfred Hughes, George Kenter, Joseph Wannamaker, William and George Nelles and Wesley Weese.

By playing for parties, picnics, and excursions on boats to Detroit, Sarnia and Walpole, and other events, the band earned funds to meet expenses. The town paid the band when it played at July 1st celebrations and civic meetings but otherwise did not give aid. Selected as a Military Band by the government in 1891 the twenty-three members played at the annual encampment of soldiers at St. Thomas. After several years some of the members moved away and Dresden was without a band.

When the Town was preparing to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Dominion of Canada, the chairman, Robert Brandon, appointed a committee to form a brass band, and the Dresden Community Band was organized by William Wickens, and the twin brothers Roy and Russell Smale. It made its debut on July 1st, 1927 with thirty two bandmen under the leadership of Charles Aiken.

Through the years the band became one of the finest marching units in the district and at a Tattoo in Chatham in 1933 with 16 bands in competition the Dresden Community Band was one of the most outstanding. Russell Smale won the gold medal for the best cornetist.

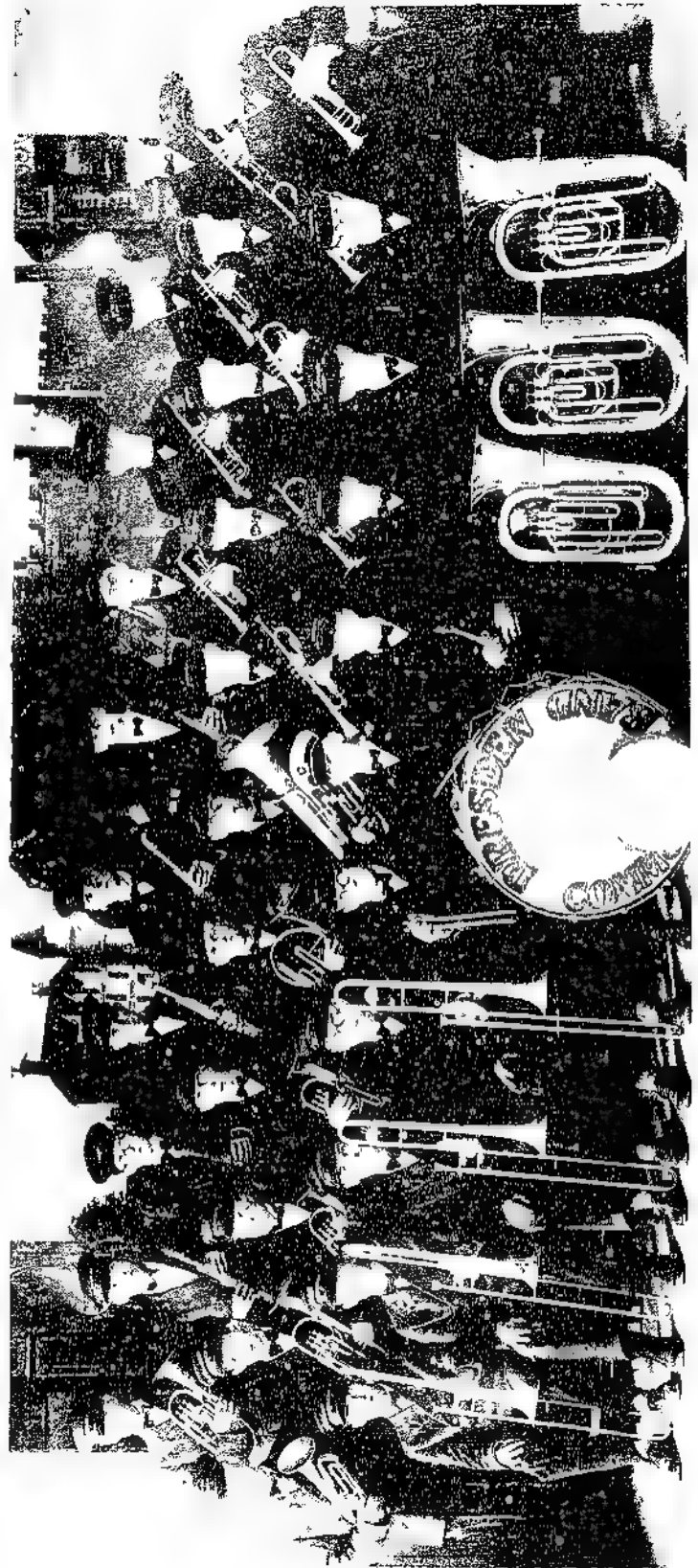
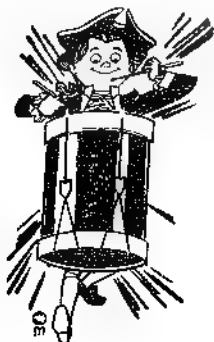
A wood bandstand on the south east corner of the Market Square was replaced in 1939 with a modern shell which cost \$635. It was built to the north of the town hall, in its present location.

Under the leadership of Keith Wells, a Junior Band with a string section was formed with 15 and 16-year-old boys from town and the community, in 1937. The band played garden parties, Sunday school events, and concerts until the boys grew older and some left to attend college and others joined the Dresden Community Band.

During the war years, the band carried on with vacancies filled by girls. The conductor, Charles Aikin, retired after twenty-two years and his death was recorded in 1967. The first teacher, Nobel Law and all the original organizers of the band have passed to their reward except Roy Smale now in his 79th year.

Continuing in the tradition of the former Dresden Bands the present members under Albert Trampleasure play to the shuttles at the Christmas Season and are on hand to lead parades and civic celebrations.

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Dresden Community Band 1931

Town Development

TELEPHONE.....

The exact date of the first telephone system in Dresden is not known, but the directory for December 1885, which listed the names of the subscribers in what was then called the "Ontario Department" of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada reports 14 Dresden listings. Of these, only two were for residence telephones. The subscribers were; Bank of London, corner of Main and St. George Streets, J. H. Burnie, Fruits, etc., Main Street, Carscallen Bros. Hardware, corner of St. George and Brown Streets, Erie and Huron Railway Station, S. Hodgins General Store, corner of Water and St. George Streets, Laird Bros., Sash and Door Factory, D. D. Streets, Alexander McVean, Hub and Spoke Factory, Hughes Street, McVean and McVean Hardware, St. George Street, E. Miller and Co., druggist and agent G. N. W., Telephone Co., St. George Street, E. Miller, residence, Brown Street, W. H. Switzer, druggist, St. George Street; W. H. Switzer, residence, Lindsley Street; J. C. Tassie and Co., general stores, corner of St. George and D. D. Streets; A. Trerice, lumberman, St. George Street.

The Dresden Agency in 1885 conducted regular office hours and in the paper a notice read, "Central Office, St. George Street, Office open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, 2 to 4 Sundays", and on holidays the office was open at 10 to 12 noon and from 2 to 4 p.m., although long distance calls could be placed to Chatham and then relayed to other cities.

The first long distance line from Dresden to Wallaceburg was erected in 1903 and 1910, one to Oil Springs in 1916 and one to Rutherford in 1912.

At first some individuals were timid using the telephone and some requested the operator to take a message and telephone it to the out-of-town operator and have it sent by messenger to the firm or party in the distant town.

In 1907, R. H. Rever was manager of the Dresden exchange he also operated a rural telephone line of his own. Thomas Conway began erecting a rural line in 1909 and formed his telephone system. Later he took over Mr. Dever's rural line and the Bell Telephone Company's Rutherford line so that by October 1909 he had secured 150 subscribers with prospects of 50 more before the end of the year.

Mr. Conway became manager of the Dresden Exchange in 1911 and remained until 1920, when he sold The Dresden Rural Telephone System, which had 495 subscribers, to the Bell Telephone Company, making the telephone service centralized for the first time. Miss May Harris became the company's local representative and the central office was open on a 24 hour schedule.

Telephone subscribers in 1929 had reached an all time peak with 769 listings, but a steady decline during the depression years list only 443 in 1934. The Dresden Times, a local newspaper, had Phone 6 as its call number in 1930. By the end of 1939, telephone users had increased to 564, when the dial system was installed and a new building on Brown Street was built to house the new equipment. The dial system enabled the subscriber to dial any local number and the assistance of the central, or operator, was required only in placing long distance calls. On April 19, 1964, Dresden telephone subscribers could complete a long distance call to most areas on the North American continent.

Telephones in 1967 have become a necessary part of the household equipment and many homes have one or more telephones located throughout the home, from the basement to the bedroom. Dresden and community has more than 1,600 telephones listed with seven digits in each number.

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POST OFFICE.....

Posting a letter took some effort by the early settler because the nearest Post Office was located four miles east of Dawn Mills.

The name Dresden was bestowed upon this growing community by the Post Office authorities when it established the first post office here in 1854 after a petition by the citizens requesting an office for its three hundred or so residents.

John Blackwood, appointed Dresden's first Post Master provided space in his store southeast from the present bridge. Mail was brought here regularly by stage coach from the Great Western Railroad, at Thamesville.

The east end of Queen Street was next chosen for the Post Office and George Webster the second Post Master kept it in his store until 1864. The office was again moved to Main Street west of St. George Street, in a store owned by Cyrenius P. Watson, who held the position of Post Master for thirty-six years, the longest in Dresden's history.

Postal rates in the 1870's and for many years after were nominal, a letter sent by first class mail cost three cents to any place in the Dominion of Canada or the United States, and five cents to England. Letters could be registered for an additional two cents to any place on the continent and five cents to England.

Dresden designated a complete Post Office having a postal savings and money order department, interest paid on savings amounted to four per cent annually.

A new brick building at St. George and Main Streets was opened in 1913 where mail for Dawn Mills, Rutherford and Dawn Valley post offices was sorted and sent from Dresden. Rural delivery began around this time as roads became more usable.

Mr. Robert Brandon, post master here for thirty-five years, directed the efficient mail service enjoyed by the community.

The most extensive service given to the department was by Miss Eliza Rood, who became well known and loved during her forty years with the post office.

Trucks were first used to bring mail to Dresden in 1926, after train service became unsatisfactory and today Dresden has two deliveries each day.

Evidence of the prosperity of the postal department is displayed in the new and modern office opened in 1966 with G. L. "Pat" Dunlop, Post Master in charge of the ever increasing volume of mail.

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Post Office 1913

Photo courtesy Hugh Turner

Town Development

BRIDGE.....

A problem arose with increased traffic from the north side of the river, and the inconvenience of waiting for the ferry, although it was as efficient as ferries can be. It was operated by one of the early settlers - Isaac Trelice. The need of a bridge was recognized and in 1864 the community at Dresden built the first bridge with local timber, and a toll was charged to pay the cost of materials and labor.

Clergy, Church goers as well as those attending funerals were allowed to use the bridge for gratis.

Fare for crossing was posted and read as follows - one wagon two horses, 10 cents, one wagon one horse, 5 cents, one mule, horse or ass, 3 cents, cows, ox or steers, 2 cents, pigs, sheep and other small animals, 1 cent; the toll for man crossing 3 cents, paid only once a day, regardless of times crossed.

Damage to the structure by man or beast was required to be repaired or a penalty paid by the one responsible.

Ice jams in the spring caused the unprotected timbers to soon begin to show many weak points, and the village council built a second bridge, with the assistance of the county in 1887 and the toll was discontinued.

Both these bridges were made to swing to allow boats to pass to the docks at the end of Main and Lindley Streets, and

to the turning grounds beyond east of the village.

For the sum of \$17,000 and the old bridge, a fine iron structure was built in 1889; the abutments were ballast stone from Scotland, formerly used for weight to steady or balance the small ships crossing the ocean.

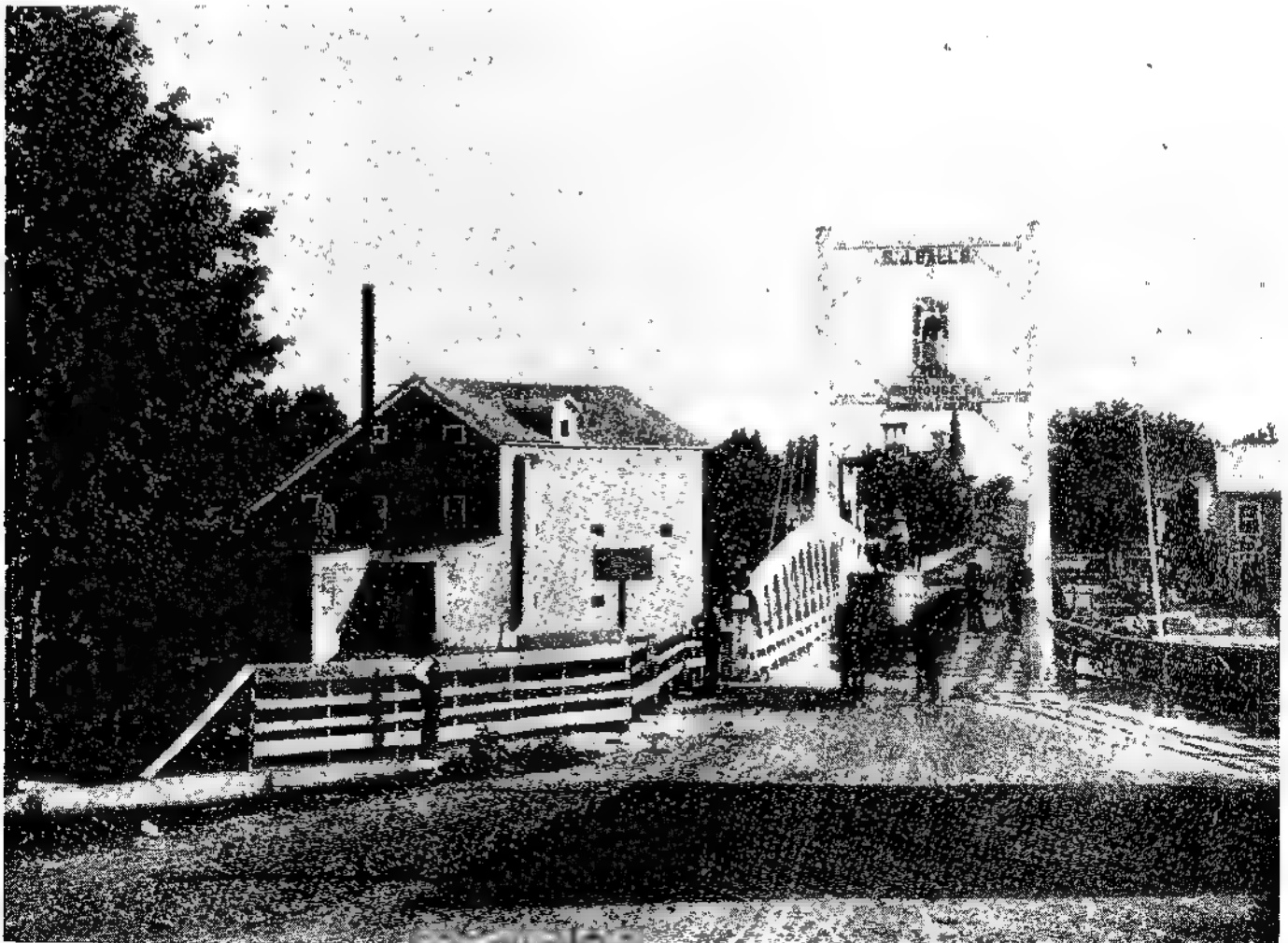
Because of a long approach on the north bank of the river the bridge was made to swing from the centre; powered by iron gears turned by a hand crank. The floor covered with wood planks was made visible at night by Dresden's new electric lights.

Preservation of the iron by a reddish brown paint and later by aluminum colored paint kept the bridge in service for 44 years, until the present reinforced concrete structure replaced it in 1933 which was financed by county and provincial funds.

Since the new bridge being constructed was on the site of the three previous ones, a temporary bridge was made a short distance west, which was a one way plank structure and heavy loads sometimes had to be lightened before they were permitted to cross.

On a cold day in December, 1933 the bridge, which cost \$40,000, was officially opened by representatives of the provincial, county and town governments, followed in the evening by a banquet and dance.

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SECOND WOODEN BRIDGE

Town Development

ROADS.....

Along with the ownership of property in the county, an obligation to build and maintain roads was included. Land and properties were assessed and each owner was required to spend allotted time on road-building and clearing each year to pay an equal amount. Consequently a good portion of the roads were impassable except in winter.

Dresden streets were laid out when Van Allen and Wright plotted their villages, and when the village became incorporated, roads of a sort were in use. The village was divided into three divisions with No. 1 north of the river, No. 2 west of St. George Street, and No. 3 south of St. George Street. Path Masters were appointed to see the roads were maintained and were kept free of logs, cordwood and other objects.

Ditches were draining streets in the village in 1872, and some were boxed in with plank. A ditch was boxed in with plank from Holden Street to the river, and the council supplied nails and plank for an underground drain from Centre Street to River Street in the same year.

St. George Street was graded in 1875 at a cost of \$1,725 and the council provided nails and plank for sidewalks in the busiest streets of the village and the residents constructed them.

Streets remained dirt or gravel until 1916 when the main roads were oiled which proved satisfactory. It was not until 1922 that Dresden paved St. George Street and North Street with cement, to have the first permanent surfaced road.

The wood sidewalks were replaced in the early 1900's with granolithic walks and now the town has sidewalks on almost every street.

Early in 1931, 2800 ft. of sewer pipe was laid along Centre Street from Holden Street to the river. Workmen digging there found several sections of the old plank drain placed there in 1872, and still in good repair.

Parking meters installed in 1960 on the main streets have proved successful with the limited parking time a boon to business and shoppers. A parking lot is centrally located on Queen Street for longer stays.

Paved streets cover approximately 10 miles in the town and well graded gravel surfaces make up the remainder of the streets. The maintenance of the roads is under the direction of present Town Foreman Wm. Hawgood and board of works employees.

TRAIN.....

The Great Western Railroad, running from London to Windsor, was opened in 1854. The nearest depot at Thamesville re-routed freight and mail as well as passengers to Dresden by stage-coach.

Prioriters of a railroad known as the Erie and Huron requested a bonus of \$25,000 to bring the line through Dresden. The railway was to run north to Oil Springs, but the Township of Dawn refused to make a grant and the plans were later changed to go west to Wallaceburg from Dresden. A grant of \$18,000 was then approved by the ratepayers and the Erie and Huron train reached Dresden in 1883.

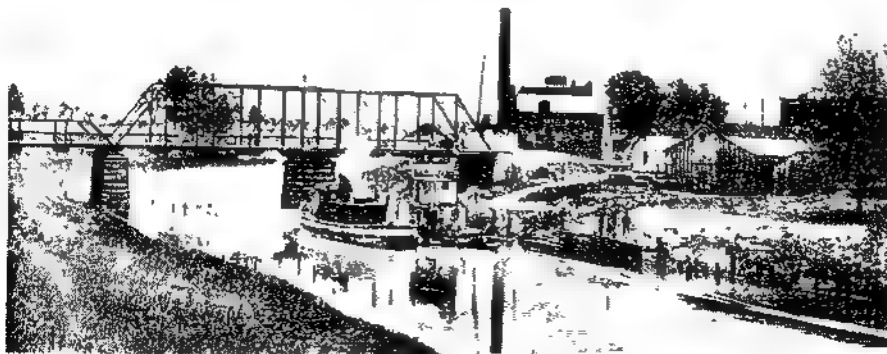
The station at first was at Water and Sydenham streets, but when the direction of the railroad was changed to go west the station was located south of the town on the east side of the road. It was later moved to the west on its present location.

Two engines were used on the line and the people nicknamed them Jack the Ripper, after the madman of the time, and John the Baptist, because it stopped at every station for water. Since it was possible to travel to Chatham and other communities and return the same day the railroad was patronized frequently and local merchants were forced to compete with larger stores and the gradual decline of business places began.

The railroad was taken over by the Pere Marquette Railroad and coal was used to fire the boilers. Passenger service was still heavy. In 1913 tickets were sold to 350 persons going to the Glorius 12th held in Chatham. Mail service to Dresden was at first regular and as Automobiles were becoming more numerous, people used the train service less and the railroad began to curtail the coaches in 1926 and soon the mail was stopped, along with the passenger service.

In 1961 the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Co. purchased the Pere Marquette Railroad and instituted important changes. Among them was the diesel engine which replaced the coal burning type, and, to improve the safety of the men and equipment, a master switch installed at St. Thomas controlled rail traffic, making collision with other trains a remote possibility.

Of the six trains using the railroad daily, two make local stops, and are received and directed by John Neil who has been the Dresden station master for the past twenty-one years.



Iron Bridge

Town Development

FIRE DEPARTMENT.....

Wood buildings, sidewalks, fences and wood fuel used in the early days of the settlement presented a fire threat more terrifying than the wild forest from where it was taken.

A measure of fire protection was gained if the property owner applied ladders to the roof and walls of his buildings and kept buckets and a water supply near to extinguish the first sign of fire.

The first council of the village passed bylaws in 1872 "for the better preventing of dwelling houses, barns, stables and other buildings from taking fire." Some of the provisions were; chimneys to be constructed of brick or stone and at least three feet higher than the building, coals of fire to be carried only in metal containers, bonfires should not be lighted in the street or public place, gunpowder to be kept in metal boxes and not sold at night, ashes should be placed in metal or brick container and not within twenty feet of any wooden fence or building. To enforce the law, John Scratch was appointed health inspector and inspector of chimneys, and to give warning regarding anything harmful to health or unsafe as regard to fire.

In the following ten years after each fire, ratepayers petitioned the council for a fire engine and to form a fire brigade, and in 1882, a Silby steam fire engine was purchased from Chatham for \$2,650, and the Dresden Defiance Fire Company No. 1 was formed with foreman, William Waterworth, assistants, L. H. Corners, J. A. Wannamaker; secretary, William Rudd; assistant secretary, R. Winter; treasurer, C. Livingston; foreman hose company; Thomas Bingham, Thomas Weston, J. W. King, engineer; C. W. Weese; assistant, Thomas King; branchmen, John Gough, Jehiel Smith, Philander Gillespie, and J. W. Norton; axemen, Noah Waffle, Edmund Ainsworth, foreman of coal tenders, Fred Hildreth.

To house the fire engine a lot was purchased from A. Welton for \$350, and Oscar French contracted to build the two story frame fire hall on the present site for the sum of \$769. The Dresden council, band, and firemen used the upper floor for meetings and practice.

In the event of fire, the council paid \$4, to the teamster who pulled the engine to the fire and returned it to the hall, if he presented an order from the chief of the fire company.

An uncontrollable fire burned all the buildings except one south of the fire hall on both sides of the block, the fire engine was damaged and considerable lengths of fire hose, and space was made in the town hall for the engine until the brick fire

hall was constructed at the present site by A. E. Dowsell for \$2,549, the following year of 1887.

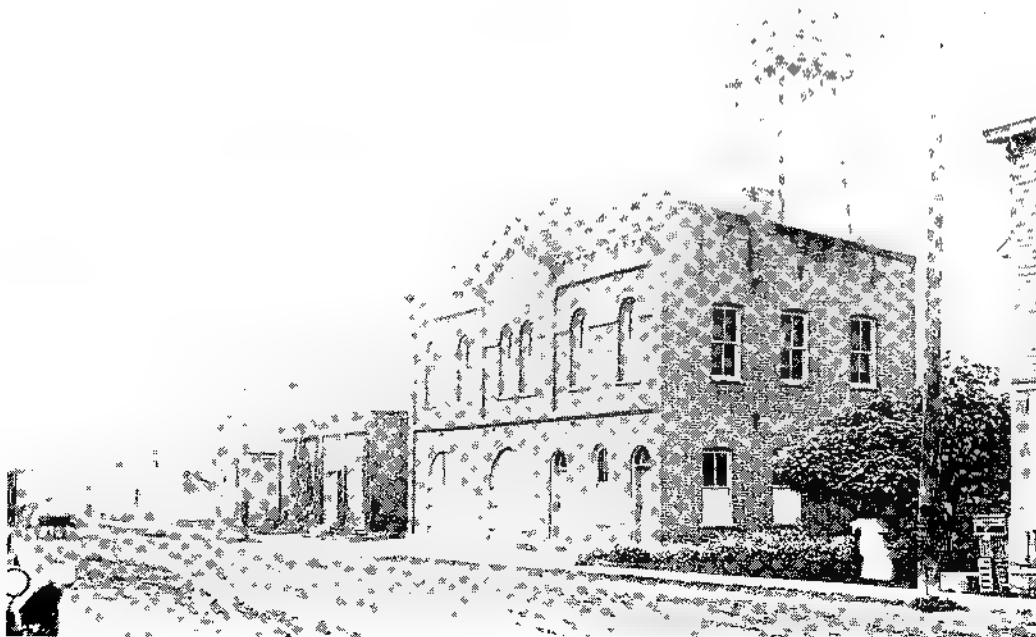
As improved fire equipment became available, the Dresden Company replaced it with trucks, pumping units and chemical fire trucks to control certain types of fire, or where water is not readily available.

Fire chief for many years was Rufus Law who was elected Honorary Vice-Chief of the Ontario Fireman's Association at the time of the annual convention which was held in Dresden in 1951.

Camden Township had no fire protection until 1955 when, after a fire which destroyed all the buildings on a farm, petitions were sent to the council asking for the necessary fire equipment and after two weeks a new \$12,000 fire truck was purchased and manned by Dresden and township volunteer firemen.

Two-way radios were installed in both the Dresden and Camden trucks in 1966, enabling them to call headquarters of Mutual Aid in Chatham or Wallaceburg for assistance and a dispatcher directs the nearest fire station to aid.

Chief of the Dresden Fire Department is Goldie Oliphant; heading the twenty man department.



Dresden Fire Hall

Photo courtesy Hugh Turner

Town Development

LIBRARY.....

General stores carried a limited supply of books or acquired them through special order in the early days of the community. Logan's Sermons, Watts On The Mind, Walker's Dictionary, and Perils and Adventure on the Deep were best sellers in 1840. Some families were fortunate in having small home libraries but for the majority the only reading matter was the annual almanac and the Bible.

John McGloghlon kept a small library in his Watch and Clock Shop on St. George Street, near the present municipal building, in 1881, where the townspeople could rent or buy the popular novel of the day.

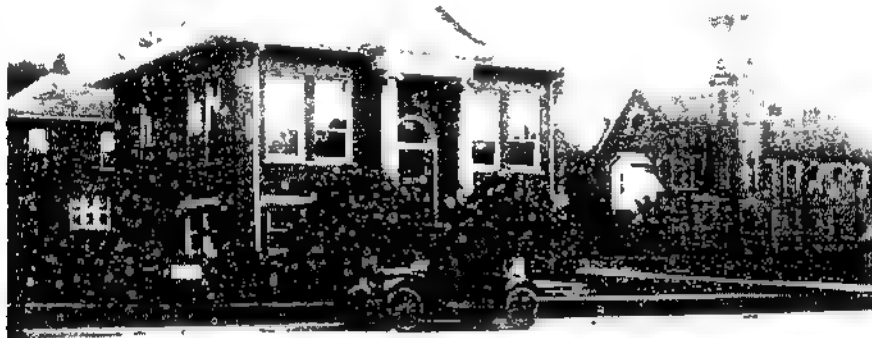
Through the efforts of avid readers such as Thomas Conway, the town council was urged to seek a grant from the funds set up by Andrew Carnegie for free libraries. The request was granted providing the town set aside \$800. annually for maintenance and make it a free public library.

A bylaw was passed in 1913 and a board appointed to

manage the Free Public Library. The first board members were, Dr. H.S. McDonald, Dr. J.L. Wiley and J.E. McGloghlon.

Land on which to build the library was donated by Robert Aikin and W.T. Prangley on Main and Centre Streets and the \$8000 brick structure was completed and opened in 1913.

The library board for 1967 is composed of Rev. Wm. Black, S.F. Havens, Dr. L.G. Payne, Mrs. J.A. Ruttle, Mrs. A.C. Rigsby and Mrs. L. Wismer. Librarian for twenty-four years, Mrs. W.H. Kalar, dispenses the 9-to-10 thousand books available to the community, and makes known the new books each month. For April, 1967, some of the fiction and non-fiction books are; Run, Fool, Run, by Frank Gruber; Anvil of Youth, by Barbara Gooden; So You Want To Be A Teacher, by Paul J. Gelinas and for children, The Long Pass, by Joe Archibald.



Library



Main Street Dresden around 1910

DRESDEN CHURCHES

EARLY CHURCHES.....

Religious services were held west of the Town of Dresden as early as 1839, when annual camp meetings were conducted for people living as far away as forty miles. Whole families came from all directions in steamer, skiff, canoe or any wheeled vehicle, bringing with them tents for shelter, goods to trade and provisions for the length of the meetings, which sometimes lasted a week.

Trading, buying and selling was mixed with reunion of friends, and all joined in the revival services, regardless of their own religious convictions.

Regular worship services were conducted at the British American Institute in 1841 by Josiah Henson and Hiram Wilson, the Congregational Missionary and teacher.

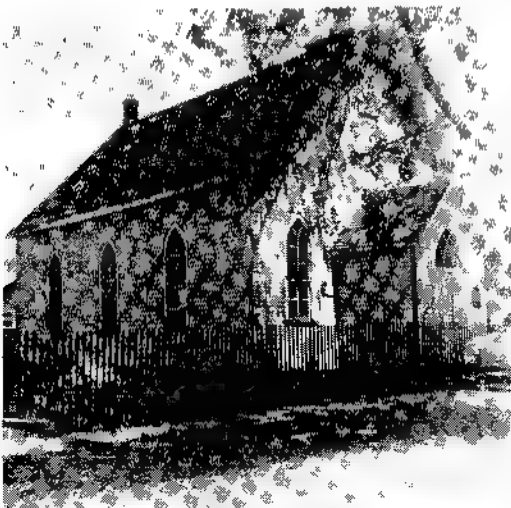
William Clark was pastor of a small Congregational Church built in the south-east part of Dresden about 1855 and it served the community until other churches were established.

Soon after, a Methodist Episcopal Church was erected on North Street between Main and Brock Streets, and North Dresden was selected for the Wesleyan Methodist Church, which was on the corner of St. George and Terice Street, opposite the public school grounds. The Methodist faith was further attended to by the Primitive Methodist Church at Centre and Queen Streets.

One of the early churches built was the British Methodist Episcopal on the south-east corner of Lindsley and Centre Streets, where the pastor for many years was Josiah Henson, until his death in 1883.

The B.M.E. congregation purchased the Primitive Methodist Church around 1884 and held services for many years, until the members gradually left to attend the Queen Street Baptist Church, and the B.M.E. was closed.

The Salvation Army formed a congregation in 1884 and until the Barracks, as the place of worship was called, was built they held services in the town hall. Through the years of service at Dresden, a good sized band was formed and several of the musicians of the former town band joined the Salvation Army Band. It was the custom to march to church and the band led the way to the hall on Queen Street. The Army closed the church in the 1940s and the building was later sold to the Evangelical Tabernacle congregation.



Primitive Methodist

UNITED CHURCH.....

The small frame church built around 1860 on North Street between Main and Brock Street housed the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal faith. To the north of the church, the ministers residence was erected and to the south, a cemetery was established. Many of the leading residents attended here and soon increased in members, making a larger church necessary. The new church was built in 1877 on the corner of North and Brock Streets. This is the present Dresden United Church. Bishop Gardiner laid the cornerstone for the new brick structure. In 1884, the three Methodist Churches united and after a few months, the congregation joined and attended the one church. The ministers at the time were; Primitive Methodist, Rev. McCutcheon; Wesleyan Methodist, Rev. E. Loundsbury, and the Methodist Episcopal; Rev. R. P. Fryer. The Wesleyan and Primitive Churches were sold and the Methodist Episcopal Church building was used. A gallery was extended in 1888 to provide more seating for the congregation.

In 1925 there was a nation wide movement to unite the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist churches into one body. The Dresden Methodist Church joined this organization and the name was changed to The Dresden United Church.

Records of the early church were not preserved, and accounts of recent years report the Robert Aikin family to have given outstanding service to the church with Charles Aikin choir leader for close to 50 years and his sister Eva as organist for 35 years. Mr. and Mrs. C. Calster were prominent members, and H. J. French served as superintendent for over 25 years. The R. P. Wright, Carscallen, Rudd and Webster families were staunch supporters. M. C. A. Humphrey added his tenor to the choir, and his pen to the service of the treasury of the church for a good number of years.

In remembrance of their son Roy, one of Dresden's World War 11 casualties, the R. R. Dustin family placed in the church an Honour Roll and Flag. Another member donating to the church, was Mr. George E. Clark who constructed an addition to the building at the north east corner and provided hymn books and altar drapes as well. Mrs. Clark was active in the Women's activities and assisted in all charitable undertakings.

Women's associations, Young People groups and the men of the congregation have flourished under the influence of the Church, contributing good citizens to the community and to the world. Among them is the Rev. Charles Carscallen a missionary to China for 20 years. For several years after, he was head of a training college in Whitby, Ontario. Camp Fire Girls were organized and guided by United Church leaders when they formed in 1931. Girl Guides invested in the first guide movement in Dresden in 1935 were mostly from this congregation. When they first organized, the Boy Scouts also met in the class rooms at the church.

The Rev. Graydon Cox, Pastor for the past four years, has accepted a call from a congregation in Bruce County. He will commence his duties there in July. The 250 families in the congregation have contributed to the development of the town and community and many members are prominent in civic and business activities. The Sunday School Superintendent is Kenneth Richards in charge of the young members of the Dresden United Church.

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Dresden's Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.....

The first mass celebrated in the Dresden district was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ennett. Their home was located on the Lindsay Road near Turnerville, and mass was continued here from 1852 to 1872 when the church was built in Dresden. When the church was built on the corner of Brock and Tecumseh Streets, it was dedicated on the Feast of the Archangel, St. Michael, in September. The Mission church named St. Michael was in the charge of the Rev. Father Marshall and the status continued until 1878 when it was attached to Wallaceburg.

A separate church was designated for the Dresden Mission in 1927 by the Bishop Fallon. The Rev. Father Thomas J. Ford was named the first Pastor. Father Ford remained until 1933 and was succeeded by Father J. A. Machesy and later by Father Pettypiece. In 1939, Rev. Father A. N. Page took charge of St. Michael's parish and remained until his retirement in 1966.

Rebuilding of the original frame church took place in 1904 when the Church was brick veneered and a sacristy and winter chapel was added. Little change has taken place in the structure of the Church except for the usual upkeep.

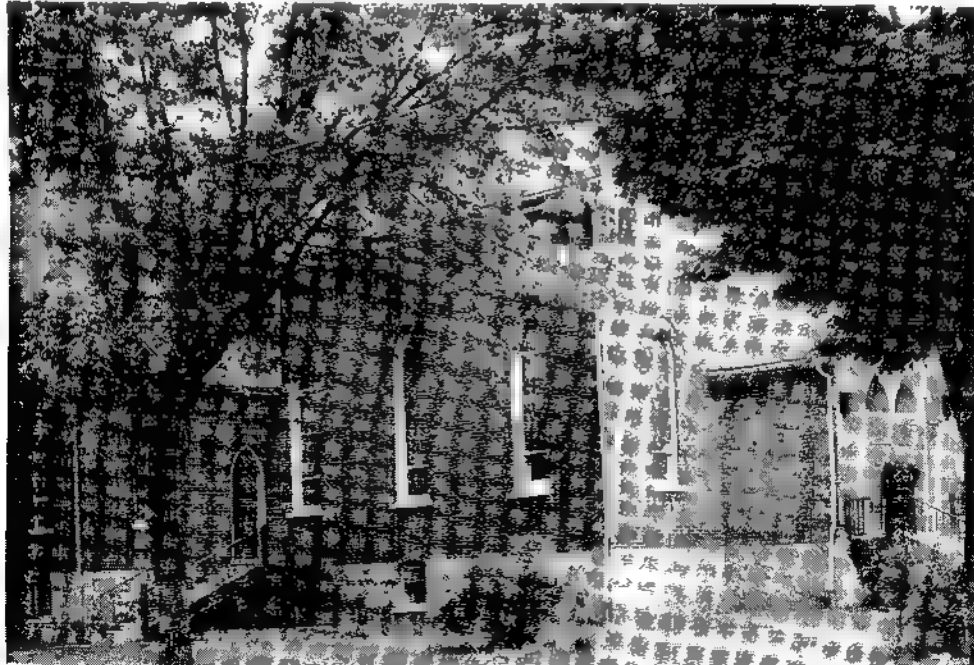
Actively participating in the service to the church and the community is the Womens Catholic League. They give faithfully of their time and effort in the various undertakings sponsored.

Some of the early members of St. Michael's Church in Dresden were the families of; Ennett, Burns, Mahoney, Bear, McDuffe, Daniels, Pels, Phaneuf, Campbell, Sullivan and Shannon.

The training and religious direction of the church have merited recognition for the early guidance of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. A. P. Mahoney, P. A. Vicar General from the diocese and Superior of St. Peter's Seminary.

After Rev. A. N. Page retired, St. Michael's Church welcomed the Rev. Father Donald Aflaster. He is presently conducting services and ministering to the needs of the 185 families in the parish.

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St. Michael's Church

EVANGEL TABERNACLE.....

The Evangel Tabernacle began with prayer services held in the homes of Claude Irwin and George Bishop near Dresden, with the Rev. S. H. Wilson conducting the meetings in 1939. Later in the summer a tent was erected in Dresden on the south side of Lindsley Street, between St. George and Centre Streets, where services were held until fall, when members rented the Orange Hall, now Richardson Hall. By winter, a more permanent building was found and the British Methodist Episcopal Church was leased to the group and regular services continued. For some reason the old church was not for sale, and in 1941, the vacant Salvation Army Citadel was purchased and extensive renovations were made.

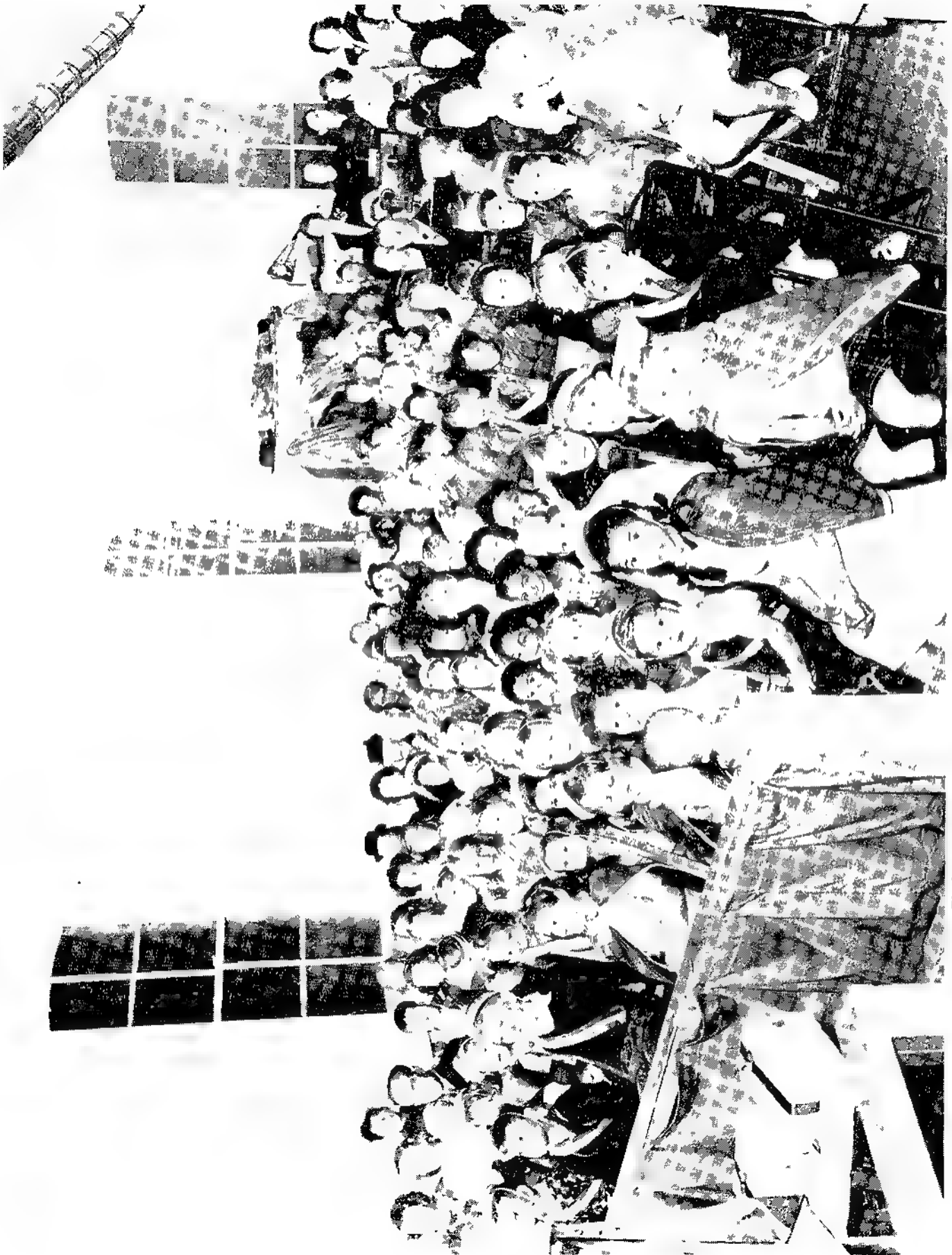
Gospel Echoes, a weekly radio broadcast, was sponsored by the growing congregation led by Rev. H. W. Moody, pastor at this time. A Young Peoples' Group, which formed to give spiritual and moral guidance, enjoyed immediate success. Seven Sunday School class rooms were added in 1963, using some of the lumber from the old British Methodist Episcopal Church, which the members were able to purchase in 1961 and dismantled, giving the pulpit and organ to the "Uncle Tom's Cabin Museum."

Weddings in the old church were performed and the first ceremony united William Harris and Treasa White. In the new church John Gross and Violet Chandler were the first couple married, with Rev. W. H. Moody officiating.

Rev. E. F. Janzen, pastor of the Evangel Tabernacle at present, is the thirteenth minister conducting services for the seventy-five families attending.

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Childrens Crusade at Evangel Tabernacle 1949

Dresden's Churches



Christ Church

Dresden's Churches

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN.....

The founder of the Anglican Church in Dresden, came to Canada from his office as Headmaster in a school in England. Thomas Hughes arrived at London, Ontario about 1850. He assisted in teaching the 60,000 ex-slaves. At London his friend Bishop Cronyn, of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, guided Mr. Hughes and instructed him in theological training. Later, the headmaster from England was ordained a priest of the Anglican Church.

Dresden was designated a mission station in the 1850's for fugitive slaves in Canada. Mr. Hughes was appointed to the mission in 1859. He set about the task of finding a suitable site for a church. Owners of property refused to sell if negroes were to be admitted to the church services, but by persistent persuasion by Mr. Hughes the land was purchased.

The original plans were drawn by Mr. Hughes and with help from England and the Huron Church Society, the church was built on the present location for the sum of \$2,043.00.

Bricks for the new church were made at Mr. Hughes' farm near Dresden. In 1867 the cornerstone was laid, but the building was not completed until 1871. On October 11, 1871 the Church was named Christ Church and was consecrated by the Bishop of Huron.

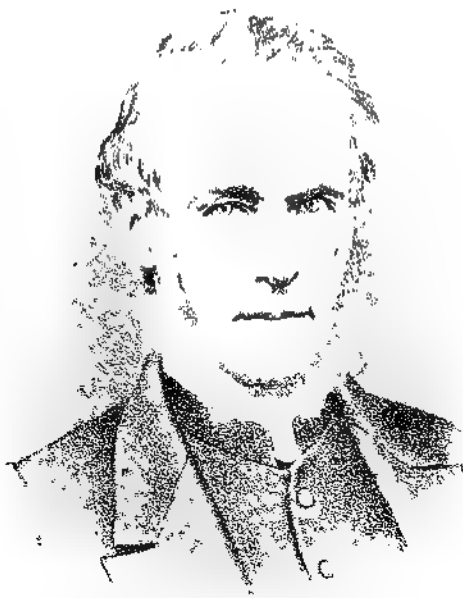
Some of the first members were; the Henson family, Highgate, Proctors and the Solomons. The Rev. Thomas Hughes remained pastor of the church until his retirement in 1876. His salary of \$700. annually, was sent from England for many years, but the Church soon was self supporting.

The Anglican Church first established the Sabbath School for both boys and girls. They learned to read and write while being instructed in the Christian faith.

After a time, the residents of the British American Institute left the Anglican Church for the Queen St. Baptist Church which was organized first in Dresden, and also for the British Methodist Episcopal church with Rev. Josiah Henson pastor.

Except for the building of a large hall adjoining the north side of the church, it has remained substantially as Mr. Hughes designed it. A large stained glass window was placed in the west end of the church in 1966. This was a gift from the Anglican Church at Florence which was closed.

To commemorate the founding of Christ Church in Dresden, a special ceremony was held on Sunday, June 4, 1967 with descendants of Mr. Hughes attending. Centennial trees



REV. THOS. HUGHES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.....

The Presbytery at Chatham established a mission church in Dresden in 1872. Mr. G.G. McRobbie, a student pastor was assisted by Mr. Gilbert Tweedie M.D. as lay minister. The congregation consisted of five families, among them were the McDonalds and the James McConnell family.

Robert Whitson donated the land in North Dresden for the first church. In 1876 the frame edifice was built. The elders for the Dresden church were Allen McDonald Sr. and James McConnell. In 1881 Dresden's first ordained minister was Rev. Thomas Talloch. The board of managers were; William Colville, President; T.B. Anderson, Secretary; Charles Tassie, Treasurer; Messrs. John Slater, Milton Lent, and George Marr, and Mr. Piggot. Mr. Tassie remained treasurer of the church until 1902.

Mr. Ferguson was appointed a committee to approach the School Board in regards to purchasing a lot for a new church in 1887, but apparently this did not materialize.

After the death of Rev. Mr. Talloch on February 4, 1890, Mr. R.M. Croil was inducted. At this time, the church managers were A.H. McDonald, president; J.J. French, Vice-president; T.B. Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer; and C. Tassie, Treasurer; also O. McVean, T.E. Laird, A. Cuthbert, and John Slater. Mr. and Mrs. John Slater were the first couple to be married in the old church.

A disastrous fire occurred in Dresden in 1895, burning almost the whole block on George Street between St. John and Lindsley Streets. The St. Andrew's Presbyterian congregation secured the corner property on St. George and St. John. The Rev. Mr. Croil resigned and during the vacancy in the winter, trestles were erected across the river. The frame church was then moved to its present site. Mr. J.W. Grece and Ed. Mordey were in charge of the moving operation.

The Sunday School was organized about 1896. The first superintendent was T.B. Anderson. Rev. T.D. McCullough was the pastor. Mrs. Anderson organized the Mission Band in 1898. The following year Rev. Norman Lindsay succeeded Rev. McCullough.

Choir leader in 1900 was Thomas King with organist Miss Switzer. The church at this time reports 108 members. Two organizations were formed; the W.F.M.S. with Mrs. Lindsay president, and Y.P.S.C.E. president was Daisy Cuthbert. The board of managers were; J.I. Wiley, President; S. Shaw, Secretary; and Charles Tassie, Treasurer.

Church services were held in the town hall in 1901 for a few Sundays while the church was being remodeled. During this period, the church contributed to Knox College and the Field Mission and Home Mission. The death of Mr. Allen McDonald was recorded in 1902 and referred to as "an elder of the church for many years."

The Sunshine Mission Band was organized in 1904, and the Men's club and Bible Class in 1917. An organ was purchased for the church in 1918 and cost \$405.00.

To promote activities of the young women of the church, the Heather club was formed on October 25, 1919. They have given outstanding service to the church and community. In 1926 the Heather club donated new pews for the church and memorial windows. They also paid the interest on the mortgage.

Church union was voted on in 1925 with 10 members for the proposal and 80 against. Rev. Mr. McKag was minister, during this time having succeeded Rev. J.A. McCrae.

Because of the economic depression throughout the country in 1932, the ministers salary was reduced to \$1,800.

In 1935, Rev. J.R. Anderson was inducted as pastor of the Presbyterian Church. In the same year, Mrs. Anderson organized the C.G.I.T. which is still operating with a large membership of young girls.

The Rev. A.C. Jamieson was pastor for St. Andrew's in 1940 remaining until 1947 when Mr. W.S. Newton was inducted. A new parsonage was built by the congregation on Victoria Street in 1961. The first family to occupy the modern home was Rev. William Black and Mrs. Black and sons. Mr. Black was inducted in 1961 and remains the pastor of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Dresden at the present time.

Dresden's Churches

QUEEN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.....

A devout congregation of Baptist adherents were among the settlers on the British American Institute lands in 1842. Meetings were held in a little cabin near the "Institution" and later, in a building on the corner of Main Street near the river. The early Dresden church was a member of the Canadian Anti-Slavery Association, and Rev. S. H. Davis, a Missionary, was ordained by Elder Washington Christian about 1836. Rev. Christian is credited with founding more Canadian Baptist Churches than any other coloured Baptist Minister. He made a missionary tour to all the Baptist Churches as far west as Chatham in 1847 and it is reasonable to assume Dresden was among his calls.

At the annual Amherstburg Baptist Association meeting in 1856, a delegation from the Canadian Anti-Slavery Association asked that the two be united. The delegation was headed by Elder W. P. Newman, pastor of the Dresden Church, who reported 90 members.

In 1857 the Baptist Church delegates to the association were; Pastor, Rev. Newman; Elder, S. H. Davis, G. Johnson, S. Lynn, E. Simmons and E. Walker. They reported the church had been erected and asked for co-operation and prayers to pay for the same.

Motion was made at an Association meeting in 1863 that the Rev. S. H. Davis, acknowledged to be one of the most able ministers, write an essay on the American War, to be read at the next annual Session.

Some of the Charter members of the Queen Street Baptist Church were; Brothers Bow, George Johnson, Mr. Thompson, George Day, Jonah Wilson, Louis Cunningham, Wheeler, Stephen Griffen, Jacob Stout, Josiah Brown, Sisters; Elmira Day, Wheeler, and Jemima Stout.

In the year 1858 the Rev. S. H. Davis succeeded Rev. Newman. The church property was secured and the task of building the church proceeded. At this time the area was thick with timber and the men of the congregation set about cutting the trees. The logs were hewn and the Rev. Davis donated one hundred cords of wood to pay for sawing the lumber. Dedication of the new church took place in 1859 during the annual Amherstburg Association session.

Sunday School at Dresden was established as early as 1860. The first Missionary Society was organized in 1882 with Mrs. S.

H. Lynn the president. The Baptist Churches were urged to insist that the older members of the church take more interest in the young peoples' societies and the Dresden A. B. Y. P. U. was established with little Davis Wells the first president. The young peoples' president in 1967 is Jacqueline Lambkin. President of the Gleaners Society, active for many years, is Mrs. Mavis Scott. Their work includes a grant to a 10th grade student of the Lambton-Kent District High School each year for excelling in English. They also assist members and non-members in times of bereavement or disaster.

Serving at Sunday Teas and other functions are the Sr. Choir under the direction of Mrs. Alva Lucas, and the junior choir with Miss Lynn Guest president and directed by Mrs. Gertrude Davis. The Queen Street Baptist Church constructed a parsonage on Holden St. in 1946, to meet the needs of the large congregation. In 1958 a church hall was built at the rear of the Church and serves as Sabbath classrooms and auditorium.

QUEEN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH PASTORS

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1857 - | Rev. W. P. Newman |
| 1858 - 1888- | Rev. S. H. Davis and Rev. S. H. Lynn |
| 1888 - | Rev. T. F. Scott |
| 1889 - 1890- | Elder Gordon |
| 1890 - 1891- | Rev. J. A. Holt |
| 1891 - 1895- | Rev. T. H. Morris. |
| 1895 - 1897- | Rev. B. B. Jongson, Rev. Mr. Isabelle, Rev. J. A. Thompson |
| 1897 - | Rev. J. H. Penick |
| 1898 - 1907- | Rev. W. T. Nickerson, Rev. T. J. Henderson Rev. Peter Brooks |
| 1907 - 1912- | Rev. C. L. Wells |
| 1912 - 1914- | Rev. J. H. Penick |
| 1914 - | Rev. W. L. Storrs |
| 1915 - | Rev. Mr. Carnegie |
| 1920 - 1921- | Rev. Mr. Gilbert |
| 1922 - 1925- | Rev. J. H. Penick |
| 1934 - 1937- | Rev. J. C. Browning |
| 1938 - 1949- | Rev. H. L. Talbot (grandson of Rev. S. H. Davis) |
| 1949 - 1954- | Rev. George Simmons |
| 1954 - 1967- | Rev. E. A. Talbot (great grandson of Rev. S. H. Davis) |



First Aid Class Queen Street Baptist Church 1966

Dresden's Churches



Early Dresden Churches

IN MEMORY OF -

MR. AND MRS.
S. J. CHAFFE

Samual Bentley

Born Ireland, 1826
Died Dresden, 1922

Mable Bently
Christian

1886 - 1958

Helen Victoria
Mosher Bently

Born, Michigan, 1836
Died, Detroit, 1926

Arthur Edwin
Bentley

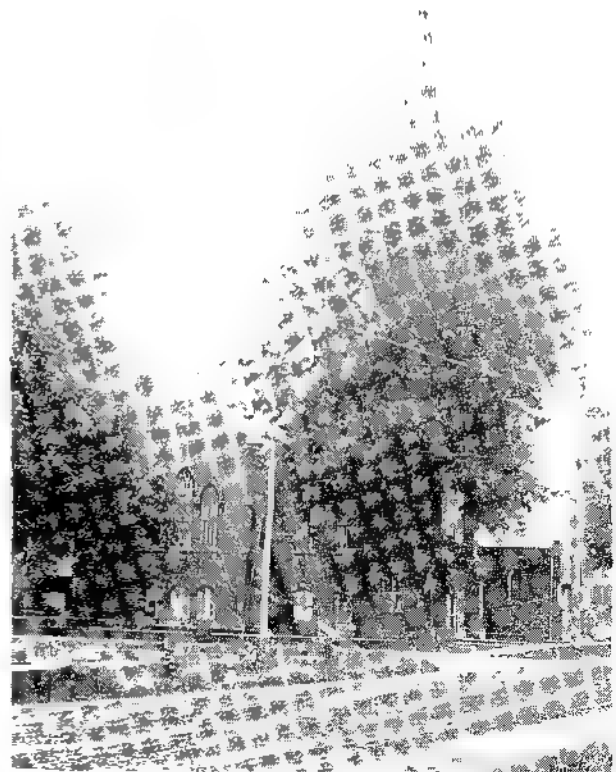
Born Dresden, 1886
Died Detroit, 1960

Annie Bently
Lillie

1892 - 1960



Evangel Tabernacle



Methodist Church

Dresden Churches

NORTH DRESDEN BAPTIST CHURCH.....

The North Dresden Baptist Church was organized May 18, 1872, and for two years the small congregation met in the home of Jacob Killam, until the present main body of the church was built of brick in 1874. Pastor of the new church was Rev. M.C. Lambell and clerk was Jacob Killam, who kept the records at his home. In 1884 the Killam home burned and with it all the church records.

At the first meeting after the fire the officers were; Pastor, Rev. W.M. Corkery, clerk, Jacob Killam, treasurer; Mrs. Lucy Warner; trustees; James Blackburn, Benjamin Hillis, R.J. Colville, A.L. Grover, D.A. Shaw and Jacob Killam; deacons of the church were; D.A. Shaw, Richard Brewer, James Blackburn, Benjamin Hillis, R.J. Colville and A.L. Grover.

Around 1887 the Sabbath School was formed with A.L. Grover superintendant and assisted by Mrs. McNab. Classes were held in the church, there being no separate rooms at this time. Mission Churches were attempted at King's Ferry, Dawn Mills, Rutherford and at the White School in 1887, but after a time it was felt the minister was needed at the Church School, and the missions were discontinued until 1894 when missions were established at Thorncliffe and at Wabash.

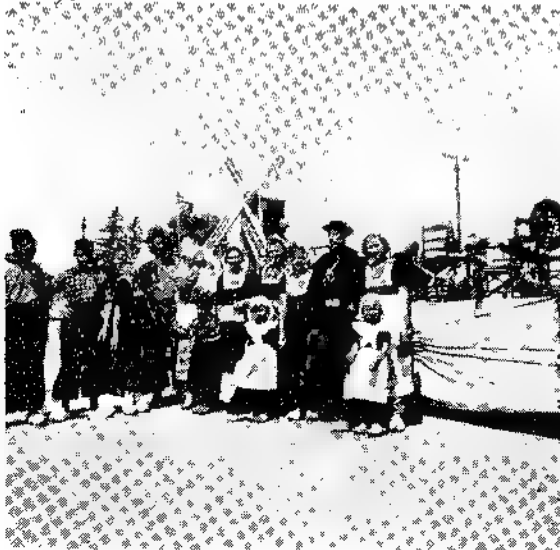
The Woman's Circle began activities in 1895, along with the Ladies' Aid, the Young Peoples' Society and a year later, the Mission Band.

Repairs to the church were made as needed and around 1900 electric lights were installed at a cost of \$24.00 and a Dominion Chapel organ was added for the sum of \$75.00.

A lot to the west of the church was purchased in 1918 and a home moved to the site for the parsonage. A garage, built during Rev. J.F. Dingman's pastorate from 1927 to 1937, was added to the property.

Rev. Charles Gower became the next Pastor and he started the regular radio broadcasts which became part of the service. Attendance at these church services became so large the church building could not accommodate all the congregation, and people were happy to stand in the Sunday school hall to hear the sermons. Mr. Gower left to accept duties at another church in 1943 but was asked to return to Dresden in 1950 and the radio broadcasts were resumed. During the second pastorate many extensive repairs and changes were made to the church properties, among them was the removal of the horse sheds at the east of the church and an addition to the Sunday School began.

In eighty-three years, since records are available, the North Dresden Baptist Church has been served by thirty-one pastors and student pastor, including the present Minister, Rev. E.A. Lorimer who began his duties April, 1964. In that period the membership has grown to 164. Many improvements to the church building have been accomplished, and in 1966 the church became self-supporting, reflecting the prosperous era of the century.



CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH.....

The congregation of the Christian Reformed Church was established in Dresden in 1961 with 45 families. The families were primarily of Dutch ancestry and the closest church of this faith was located in Chatham, where families attended in 1949 and 1950.

In 1951 services were held in the Richardson Hall in Dresden with ordained and student pastors from the Theological School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, conducting the services.

On April 6th, 1951, Rev. Mr. Vanderzwal officiated at the marriage ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. George Visser, who were the first couple to be wed from the local church.

Volunteer help formed to build the first Christian Reformed Church on Mooney Street in 1955. The structure, a large two-story frame building, became the central meeting place for the congregation, with a hall on the upper floor. The pastor for the new church was Rev. Ralph Brokema, and the various church groups held meetings in rooms at the rear of the Church. One of the first organizations was the Ladies Society working for the Church and School programs; Mrs. Sluys was the president. The Young Peoples Society, with President Bernhard Crooma, planned activities at home and with other church groups in the area. Miss Clary Troost is 1967 president of the Society.

The church parsonage was built on Sydenham street in 1957. The first Elders of the Church were Messers, Holkstra, Zried, Zanderleeuw, Sluys and Tolsma.

An active Men's Society, established about 1960, was headed by John Davies. The men guide the young people of the church in recreation and social activities. Also formed for social and church events was the Married Couple's Club with Mr. Riapna president of the first club and Mr. Schenk president at the present time.

Directing the church affairs in 1967 are the following Elders; Messers; Brouwer, Poppe, Aukema, Loofer, and Dezries.

Succeeding Rev. R. Brokema was Rev. Mr. Goosie and the recent pastor Mr. Mennega, who accepted another pastorate and the vacancy is presently being filled by a summer student from Grand Rapids, Mr. Katebuhr.

Caring for the church grounds and buildings since 1955 are Mr. and Mrs. Casper Faas, two of the original members of the Dresden church.





Mrs. W. Lawrence's Nativity Scene near Dresden

Roll of Honor

WORLD WAR I

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pte. Walter Lester Babcock | Sapper Wilson Babcock |
| Pte. Charles Breaton | Pte. John W. Davis |
| Pte. Henry Badgeley | Pte. De Wolfe |
| Sgt. George Eberlee | Pte. Edward Evans |
| Pte. Edgar Francis | Sgt. Lorne French |
| Pte. John Goodwin | Pte. James Goodwin |
| Pte. D. Graham | F/Lieut. John Humphrey |
| Pte. Orval Y. Iden | Pte. Charles P. Kerr |
| Pte. John Latimer | Sapper Fred Lapointe |
| Pte. Walter J. Lucas | F/Lieut. James William McVean |
| Pte. Tracey W. Ogletree | Pte. Hugh Pollock |
| Pte. William Smale | Pte. Warren Smith |
| Lieut. John William Wells | Cpl. Ralph Webster |

WORLD WAR II

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| F/O Gerald Fox | F/O Charles Gebden |
| P/O Jacques Munn | Pte. Hugh McFadden |
| Para. Jack McKernan | P/O Anthony Palanek |
| Pte. Garland Floyd Richards | L/Cpl. Carson Steel |
| Capt. R.A. Tiffin | Pte. A.I. Sedgman |
| P/O Dougal Turner | Cpl. Gordon Currie |
| Cpl. R.A. Blackburn | F/O Roy Dustin |
| Pte. Chester Doan | |

KOREAN WAR

Pte. Raymond Enos

MILITARY HISTORY

MILITIA.....

Dresden's Military history stems from the early County settlement, when in the War of 1812 to 1815, a recruiting sergeant travelled throughout the district ordering all males 16 years of age and over to report for service in the Kent Militia.

These 'Kentish Men' proved themselves able soldiers, and when the area was occupied by the Kentucky riflemen, they encountered the "Irregular Militia", who, for the most part had been disarmed to prevent imprisonment by the invading Americans.

With the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, the Kent soldier returned to his peaceful labors and nearly a quarter of a century passed before there was need of the Kent Militia.

The civil attack on the government for Upper Canada in 1837, and the Fenian Raids in 1866 and 1870, made it necessary to form a military force and a Company of Volunteers was formed in Kent County, consisting of six companies, with head quarters at Chatham.

Six Company of the Twenty-fourth Kent Infantry under Captain W. H. Hughes, was stationed at Dresden. Here they held regular drills and in 1873 the village council paid rent for storage of arms and equipment and a bill of \$5.00 for repairs to the Armory.

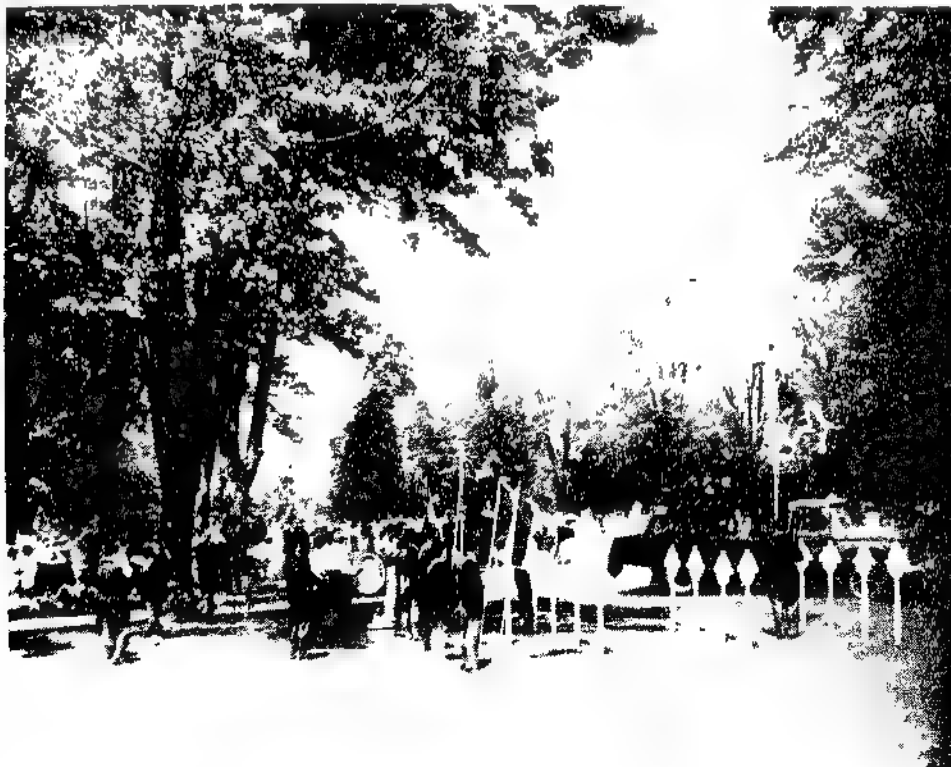
A large Drill Shed at Dawn Mills, used in earlier days, was moved to Dresden and located on a lot on the west side of the present Jackson Park. The land was purchased for the sum of \$225.00. The Company met and drilled here until all dan-

ger of raids from the "Basht Bazouks" as the raiders were called had ceased and after a time the company disbanded.

With the outbreak of World War I, Dresden was not slow to join the armies and many lost their lives on the battlefields of Europe, or died later from wounds. In 1923 the Daughters of the Empire erected a monument at Queen and St. George Streets in their honor and inscribed the names of the fallen.

Canada was ill prepared when again duty called to defend the rights of others in 1939. Nevertheless, Dresden and area men responded and at first trained with W. W. I. rifles and wooden guns, and in makeshift uniforms. Sometimes one uniform was divided among three or more soldiers, with a cap for one and tunic for another and soon the only outward sign the young men were part of an army. At the end of hostilities Dresden again paid honor to the soldiers, when the Daughters of the Empire placed a second bronze plaque inscribed with the names of men who gave their lives; and placed it on the south side of the Dresden Cenotaph. A welcome committee was created by the Town Council to officially welcome the men who were returning from overseas service and to present them with a gold ring, and to survivors of soldiers not returning.

Dresden men also served in Korea under the Flag of the United Nations. The soldier killed in that conflict was commemorated on the side of the Cenotaph. A lasting and conspicuous memorial, "Lest We Forget."



FLANDERS FIELD

Dresden Businesses.

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For a Third Of A Century

Publisher of

The Voice of The Kent Farmer

The Voice of The Lambton Farmer



**WILLIAM ADKIN BEAR OPERATING THE STAPLE MACHINE
AT THE DRESDEN NEWS**

THE DRESDEN NEWS FOR QUALITY JOB PRINTING

DRESDEN'S BUSINESSES

NEWSPAPERS.....

Dresden's first newspaper a weekly was published in 1870 by Alexander Riggs. It was called the Dresden Gazette. It was sold in 1873 to Mr. McClellan and Mr. McSween who changed the name to The Dresden Times.

The paper was sold three more times prior to 1891 to L.R. Stobbs then to Hughes brothers who sold to Joseph Gadd. A Mr. Gohille managed the Times for the last owner. In the office learning the trade was T.N. Wells who purchased the paper in 1891. Mr. Wells conducted the paper with the interests of the town and community as its main concern and reporters from the area were sending regular news items from their community.

The Dawn valley Dots, Ruthertord Ripples, Shiloh waves and Croton Chips were columns carried by the Times. In the early days of the paper, the local news was interspersed with classified ads, the paper also carried a good report on the world news on two of its pages.

After the death of T.N. Wells, his son Laurie continued the business independent of politics as the former publisher had. To remind readers of this policy, a notice was inserted in the paper in 1933 which read, - Pertaining to anything political in the columns of the Times, it is paid matter, and does not reflect, the views of the paper.

The Times was solidly behind any civic undertaking and urged its readers to buy at home. Contests offering furniture, stoves, fur coats, and even a car as prizes given to the shopper with the greatest number of points gained through home purchases, were sponsored by the paper and business men.

Mrs. Wells managed the paper after her husband's death for a short time until it was sold to William H. Bowes who resold it. In 1955 the presses were still and the Times closed its doors.

In 1902 Charles H. Gordon published a weekly newspaper in Dresden called the Standard. He conducted the paper in the interests of the political liberal party, as well as the interests of the town and community. The paper was located near the present Toronto-Dominion Bank on St. George Street and after about three years publication was discontinued.

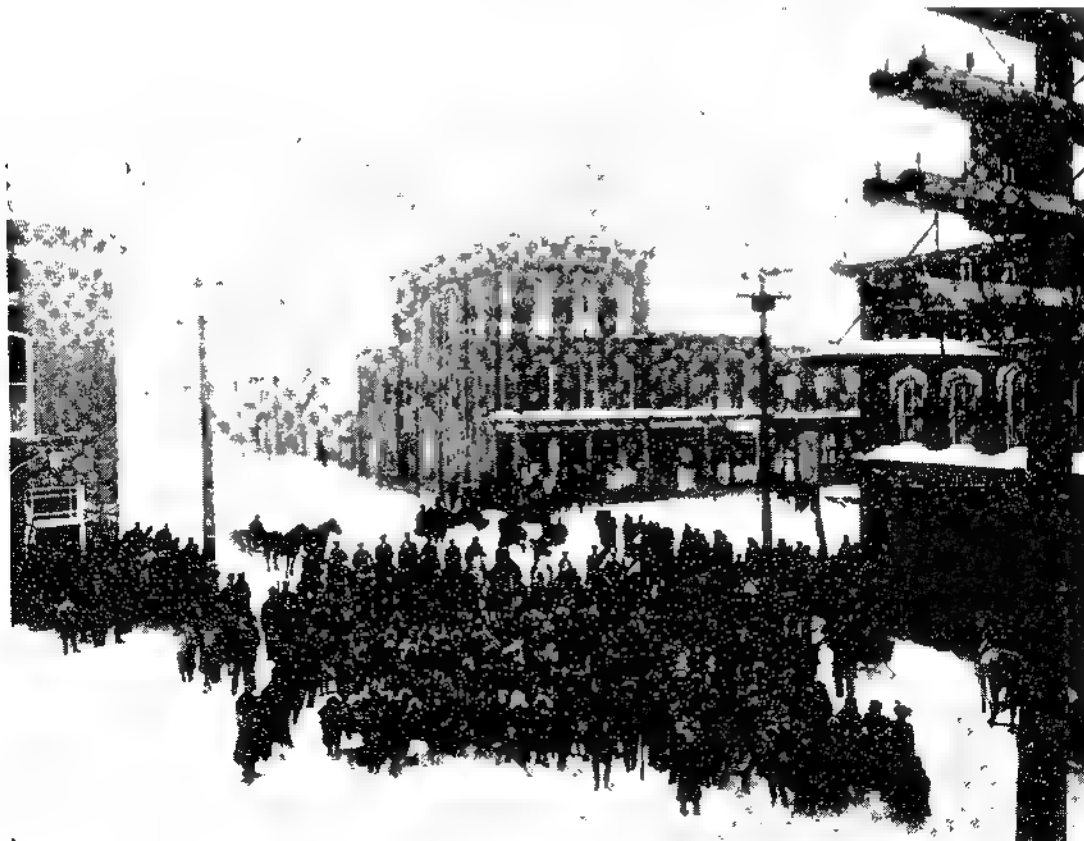
Another weekly newspaper commenced publishing in 1938, with Charles Ross and Glen Wicks as owners. Later Mr. A.G. Ross, the publisher's father, became associated with the paper. The new plant, located on the west side of St. George Street, near the bridge, was, and is, conducted on an independent basis.

In the first year of the Dresden News a phenomenon occurred, and was given extensive coverage by the News. A Meteor had left its orbit and was plainly visible in this area. It fell to the earth, burning and exploding as it made the descent and finally coming to rest in a field in Chatham Township. The unburned fragment was on display at the Dresden News office for a time and is now on display in a museum.

During W. W. II Charles Ross served in the armed forces and his father carried on the business applying his journal to the task of promoting War Bond sales, and any other capacity in the services of the country, regularly sending copies of the home paper to service men and women overseas as well.

When hostilities ceased, Charles Ross returned to Dresden and resumed duties as co-publisher of the paper and continued after the death of the senior Mr. Ross.

Dresden's newest weekly newspaper, The North Kent Leader, launched their publication in 1966. The paper is operated by Gordon Clauws as publisher and T. Misselbrook manager, and they have gained in the short period a good circulation of Dresden and the community.



GETTING THE NEWS - WORLD WAR I

Dresden Businesses

BLACKSMITH.....

The local blacksmith held a prominent place in the community in the horse and buggy days, as the area increased in population, several blacksmiths worked at their forges to keep iron shoes on horses and rims on the wagons. In 1872 a blacksmith shop was in operation on the north side of the river and run by Harry Gage, founded by William Bedell. The blacksmith shop of George Adams had been in operation since 1862, the location of the Adams business was at the present site of the Post Office. Redford Kimmerly owned this shop later about 1875 and he and then, his son John conducted the business until 1955.

James Bedell a blacksmith operated his shop on Lindsley at the west of St. George Street from 1972 to the 1930's when James McCracken managed the shop and performed the trade of the blacksmith. Mr. McCracken remained in the business to some extent until his death in the spring of 1967 at different locations in town.

On the south-east corner of Brown and Centre Streets Pat Gilroy worked at the trade in 1872. The shop was later operated by Neil Munn.

Remaining in the blacksmith business is E. Martin on Tre-rice Street in North Dresden and Widmer Bedell the son of James Bedell. At his shop on West Street, Mr. Bedell makes horse shoes for the local stables and the few draught horses left in the area.

* * * * *

BED SPRINGS FACTORY.....

Dresden's only Bed Spring factory was operating in the early 1900's. The plant was located on Water Street near Sydenham Street and run by J. D. Ruble. A wood frame, with wood running lengthwise, was the base of the spring, heavy wire was bent into a coil and the smaller end was fastened to the wood slates, small brass coloured coils were secured to the top of the large coil connecting them together and making the spring rigid. The shop operated until about 1915, when demand for bed springs of this type was stopped, and the steel frame coil spring construction captured the market.

* * * * *

TANNERY.....

A wood building on the river bank at the east end of Brock Street was the location of Dresden's first Tannery in 1866, owned and operated by Isaac B. Webster who was also a dealer in Leather and Findings.

Hides from deer, bear and other animals were taken to the Tannery to be processed in vats of Tannic Acid, a solution made from the bark of the oak tree. Here they were steeped, before the leather was stretched and rolled while drying to make it soft and pliable.

Tanned leather was extensively used by the early pioneer. Besides shoes, boots and clothing, the leather was made into harness, and even hinges for doors. Later, carriages and furniture made in Dresden were upholstered in dyed leather in keeping with the fashion of the day.

* * * * *

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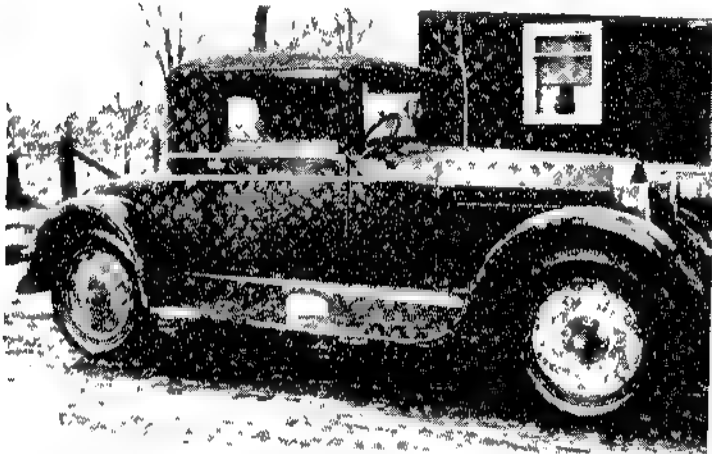
AIRPLANE FACTORY.....

Dresden's Airplane factory was short lived non profiting but while in operation the attention of the Dominion Government was focused on the enterprise. Kelsey-Hayes Wheel company commissioned Norman Thompson, of Chatham, to design an aircraft, which was accomplished in 1930 and a large building on the west end of Brown Street was converted into a factory to produce the plane. Two planes were constructed at the plant in the year it operated and employed about 10 people.

The plane's structure was covered with linen and a special paint was applied, the biplane had a continental engine and carried two passengers. Pilots from the Canadian Air Force tested the planes, but for some reason the experimental samples, were not successful and a hoped for contract was not forthcoming.

Among the employees building the craft was John A. Wolfe, one of Canada's first parachutists. It was the custom to perform before large crowds at the fair grounds, and Mr. Wolfe held many spellbound as he made his daring leap from the airplane. Some of the other employees working at the factory were Philip Alexander and Gordon Hodgson.

* * * * *




NASH COUPE

Photo courtesy Hugh Turner

Great Buys

1927 OAKLAND SEDAN

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|--|--|

SHOOTING GALLERY.....

Three shooting galleries at different times have been in Dresden. A shooting gallery opened on Main Street at the Hotel in the early part of the 1900's and was operated by Mr. Adkin. The gallery of E. Hildreth and Walter Christie, about 1925 was located on St. George Street between Queen and Lindsay Streets. The store was partitioned and in the front the men sold and repaired bicycles, the back of the store was made into a shooting range.

A noted marksman frequenting the gallery was Wes. Hart, Mr. Hart had become the Canadian trap shooting champion when he was only 16 years of age, and through the years he won many medals and prizes. The Remington Arms Company had awarded him with seven gold bars for shooting 100 consecutive clay pigeons, and at the age of 65, Mr. Hart won the American Trap Shooting Championship with a handicap of 22 feet.

The Dresden Sportsmen provide for their members an outdoor range to form the only shooting range in Dresden at the present.

* * * * *

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Truck, Tractor and Passenger Tires

Dresden's only retail water outlet

LAMBTON KENT

TIRE SERVICE

1123 North Street Dresden

AUTOMOBILE.....

Early in the century automobile agents taught the drivers basic training before the delivery of the car. Runaway cars were a common occurrence and many drivers escaped through the curtained windows when the machine ignored the command to 'Whoa'.

James McGregor, one of the first dealers in Dresden for the Ford Company, had his agency in his Carriage and Buggy shop on St. George Street in 1914, where a sedan could be purchased for the sum of \$475.00.

Other car agents were; Fred Law, who offered the Saxon Si. This was a more luxurious car and sold for a little under \$1,000. A Gray Dorr touring car, manufactured in Chatham was offered for \$910.00 in 1917. Since there were no service garages at this time, each sale of an auto included a manual, explaining to the owner the complete machine and gave instruction for its repair.

As time passed and the automobile became an accepted part of every-day life, car dealers established show rooms and engaged mechanics to repair the motors.

William H. Wickens and Clarence Craven were among the first dealers. Mr. Wickens sold the Chevrolet, and Mr. Craven the Frontenac Automobile. The Willy's car was sold by Walter S. Weese, and the Ford Garage also sold and serviced cars.

The town auto dealers in 1967 offer a variety of cars for the motoring public with, Duff Motor Sales, Bill Webster Motors, Lekavy Motor Sales and Wilmont Motors among the prominent dealers.

* * * * *

SERVICE STATIONS.....

In the early days of the automobile gasoline was a scarce commodity and local hardware and machine shops dispensed the fuel in small quantities. About 1914 gasoline stations appeared and one of the first was operated by Thomas Eglin at the south end of town. Gasoline was also sold at the present Supertest station on St. George Street near Brown Street and at the Texaco Service on St. George and Lindsley, where Red Man Gas was offered for the motoring resident.

Clear glass cylinders marked with gallon measures stood atop tall supporters. Gasoline was pumped by the use of a lever into the glass to X many gallons then the fluid was released through the hose down into the gas tank. Through the use of hydro power the gasoline today is pumped directly from the storage tank and mechanically measured and the cost is totaled in one operation by the 10 service stations in and adjoining Dresden.

* * * * *



BUICK

Photo courtesy Hugh Turner

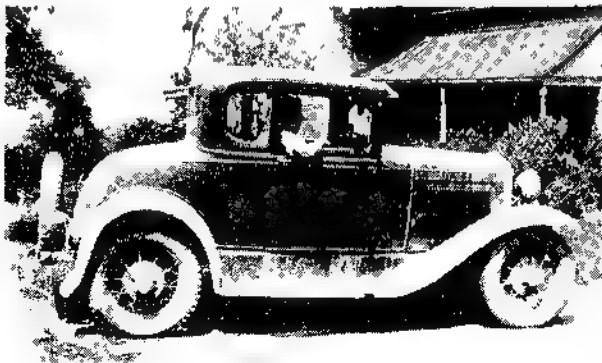
**Lekavy Motor Sales
and Service**


MARK C. FREELIE CO.

PONTIAC-BUICK-ACADIAN-GMC TRUCKS
Used Cars and Trucks

Phone 683-4480
 Dresden, Ontario





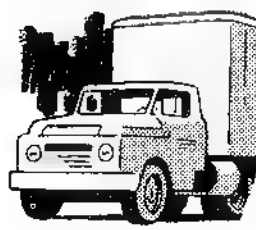
MODEL A FORD

Photo courtesy Hugh Turner

FINLEY TRANSPORT LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1949

JOHN E. FINLEY
 P. C. V., C. & D.



GROWING WITH DRESDEN

Dresden Businesses

RESTAURANT.....

Taverns were located on the site of the present Municipal building and on the corner of Water and Sydenham Streets. In the settlement beginnings in 1854, they served the incoming lumber jack and prospective settler with food as well as liquid refreshments.

Until John Young erected his store near the south-east corner of Main Street around 1875, meals could only be obtained at the several hotels and taverns. Mr. Young called his place 'The Sweet Brier Cottage.' The first ice cream was served here along with meals and lunches.

The next restaurant was owned by C. Grece. It was located on the east side of St. George Street between Queen and Main. During the last of the 1800's Charles Grece made ice cream for his parlour on St. George near St. John Street. He sold the business to a Mr. Humphrey and in 1920 Joseph Creamer purchased the business and operated the store, selling ice cream and sodas and other confections until 1940.

A new restaurant was established in 1928 when Morley McKay opened his business on the east side of St. George Street. A short time later he moved to the opposite side of the street and at the grand opening the I.O.D.E. served as hostess'. After 44 years the restaurant, known as Kay's Cafe is still serving the public. The ornate backbar in the present cafe is the one used when the business was first opened and was carried across the street and installed with the equipment.

Attempts have been made to establish several eating places in Dresden during the years and the restaurant owned by men of Chinese nationality was first run by Mart Kee Bon around 1928 and later by men known as Hum and Junior, who closed the business in the 1940's. Wilson Clarke operated the Jumbo restaurant on the north west corner of St. George and St. John Street in the early 1940's and later moved to a location near the present Dolson Red and White Store. On the south east corner of St. George and Queen Street a modern equipped restaurant was opened in the early 50's and later Walter Martin purchased the business, but it has remained closed for the last four years.

A confectionary store near the public library is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Kone who have been in the business for ten years and advise, "You Name it and We'll Have it."

Bill's Novelty Shop "with a little bit of everything," also sells hot dogs and light lunches.

A lunch counter at the south of town, in the Shell Gasoline station dispenses sandwiches, coffee and the like.

Dresden's newest eating establishment The Famous Red Dog Saloon, located on the north east corner of St. George and Lindsay Street, offers the public a bit of nostalgia with its unusual decor and is owned by Ray L. Johnson.

* * * * *

Home owned and Home operated
We specialize in,
Wedding Cakes, Birthday Cakes,
and cakes for special occasions

Try our home made bread.

Burns Bakery

683-4371

DRESDEN

BUTCHER SHOPS.....

Butcher shops were established in Dresden before 1871. One of the earliest, was operated by Robert Farnsworth near the north-east side of the bridge. A petition by local butchers appealed to the village council in 1872 to regulate the sale of meat. The council passed a bylaw whereby hawkers and market vendors were not to sell meat in less than 1/4 sides.

Neville Whitson operated his own butcher shop in several locations for many years. Stott and Bresett conducted a butcher shop in a store in the Green Mountain Hotel. Later it was owned by Stott and Newman. Lumley, Lockart and Dustin at different times in the 30's and 40's operated a butcher shop on St. George Street, on the west side about Midway in the block. The longest operating butcher shop is owned by Hugh Farnsworth. It is located on St. George Street. Mr. Farnsworth is the grandson of the early butcher Robert Farnsworth.

The butcher shop for many years remained unchanged. It had clean wood shavings on the floor each day. Large oak cutting blocks were stationed behind counters where the butcher cut each roast as the sale was made. Many of the butchers made head cheese and sausage for his customers. He also rendered lard which was sold in a tin pail or wooden tray. Steaks were cut from a side of beef, aged, not from choice but necessity while hanging in the storage room.

Hams, smoked and fresh fish, could be purchased at times from the butcher shop. Without the electric cooler, the butcher had to store quantity of ice every winter so the meat would keep. It was butchered by himself once or twice a week, according to the demand.

Today in Dresden, with modern cooling systems, the butcher is able to buy meat and fish in large quantities from the abattoir or wholesale company.

* * * * *

BAKERY.....

North Dresden was the location of the first bakery. It was owned by a family named Baxter and was in operation in 1900. It supplied the town with all sorts of baked goods. At this time the baker made his own yeast used for leavening. Forming the loaves of bread was accomplished by hand, as was the kneading and mixing.

Peter Burns purchased this bake shop around 1920. He replaced the coal heated ovens with gas and in 1939 automatic ovens were installed. This baked the bread more evenly and at the desired temperature. Haggerty's bakery on Walnut Street in north Dresden was also in operation around this time. Both the shops made daily deliveries in a horse drawn van to the homes in the town. Later the Burns Bakery delivered bread and pastries to outlying areas in Dawn, Camden, Chatham Township, the nearby towns and Walpole Island where daily deliveries are still continued.

A bread war between the two local bakeries and an out-of-town company was waged for some weeks in 1938. Price cutting was the weapon and at times the bread sold for four cents per loaf and at others it was given away free with a grocery purchase. At the peak of hostilities local trucks were parked on street corners on a Saturday night and the owners distributed bread free to passers-by. Children even entered the struggle to a degree when they were heard to chant, "So and So's bread will kill you dead - if you eat it." After a few weeks the bakeries concerned came to an agreement and the "Bread War" was ended.

The Haggerty shop continued for a short time after the death of Mr. Haggerty and closed in the early 40's.

* * * * *

Dresden Businesses

DRUG STORES.....

The first store selling drugs was owned by S. Clarke in 1808. Mr. Clarke was a medical Doctor. A copy of the Canadian Almanac, published in the year 1868, carries a full page ad informing the citizens of drugs, medicines and chemicals available at his shop.

General stores carried a stock of patent medicines for man and beast. On the east side of St. George Street, between Main and Queen Streets, W. H. Switzer opened a drug store about 1881. He later moved to the west side of St. George Street. In the Odd Fellows building E. Miller opened his drug store around the same time. The Miller drug store was later owned by Walter Watson and later it became the Dustin Drugstore operated by the present owner's father. The Switzer business was later the Drug Store and is presently McTavish Pharmacy, owned by Alex McTavish.

* * * * *

ASHERY.....

Since the area was bountifully endowed with timber in clearing the land only the finest trees were hauled to a clearing to be used. The remaining trees and stumps were piled and burned.

Ashes from these fires became a source of added income to the settler when he sold them to the Ashery. Peter Kitchen was the proprietor of the ashery near the river at the east of Lindsley Street. Here the ashes were leached by pouring water over them and the liquid from this washing, called lye, boiled down in huge iron kettles. When finished, the product had the appearance of sugar.

A world market awaited this valuable product and it was shipped in barrels to England and Ireland by way of Chatham, Ontario, and used in the manufacture of soap, soda and for bleaching linens.

* * * * *

S. CLARK, M.D.,

DRESDEN,

DEALER IN

Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals,

TOILET, FANCY & RUBBER GOODS,

PERFUMERY.

Physicians' Prescriptions and Domestic Receipts

Carefully Compounded.

ALSO, HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES.

Always on hand, a large Stock of

WHITE LEAD (Ground and Unground,)

PAINTS (in all colours,)

RAW AND BOILED LINSEED OIL,

TURPENTINE AND VARNISH.

Car Stock of

PAINTS, OILS AND DYE-STUFFS,

Is now very large and complete, of the best quality, with prices that defy competition

The Stock of Brushes, Combs and Fancy Goods,

WAS NEVER AS LARGE.

LARD OIL, ELEPHANT OIL, SWEET OIL,

SEAL OIL, PATENT LUBRICATING OIL

To those using large quantities, we offer special inducements.

PHOTOGRAPHING CHEMICALS FURNISHED.

AGENT FOR HAGYARD'S FAMILY MEDICINES.

[No. 7]

Bill's Novelty Shop

"With a little bit of Everything"
Lunch Counter

St. George St.

Dresden

SEWING MACHINE SHOP.....

T. D. Quingley conducted a sewing machine shop around 1900 on the east side of St. George Street, between Lindsley and Queen. The Raymond sewing machine was sold here, as well as the other popular name brands of White and Singer. The early sewing machine was a time saver, though it was operated by a hand crank. Later a peddle the shape of a long shoe was attached to a belt and wheel, where the rocking motion of the foot peddle turned the wheel; a short time after the treddle was made wider and both feet could be used to power the wheel. A single chain stitch on the early model was soon replaced with machine stitch of today, and attachments included with the sewing machine were used to make the fancy ruffles, pleats and shirring common in day and evening wear.

* * * * *

Dresden's only Toy Shop was in operation in the last of the 1800's on St. George Street near Lindsley Street. William Bear was the proprietor of this shop, well known to children of that period. Fashion dolls were bought for the young ladies, dressed in the latest Paris fashion and most of them had real hair, curled and ribboned. Movable toys of all types held the young boy's attention. Banks totaled the deposit when a coin was placed in the slot; steam engines with real workable boilers found their way to many boy's Christmas stocking and doll houses completely furnished in the Victorian period were prized possessions of little girls. Mr. Bear's store was still in operation in the early 1900's, attesting to the large volume of business he transacted with the townspeople and community.

* * * * *

Dresden Businesses

FURNITURE STORES.....

Dresden settlers constructed tables, chairs and cupboards for their log homes from trees felled while clearing the land. Tree trunks became tables and crude though they were, the purpose was served until sawn lumber became available.

The Saw and Planing Mill of John and Oscar French supplied seasoned lumber for the many carpenters who were coming to the area in 1860. S. S. Arnold was listed as a furniture manufacturer in the Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada. Published in 1881, the atlas stated that Mr. Arnold has been in business in Dresden, since 1870. From the 1920's and for many years after, H. Holmes conducted a furniture store on Main Street. He offered the latest in dining, living room and kitchen sets as well as bedroom furnishings. In a building located at the west end of Brown Street, Victoria cabinets were assembled and finished in the Mid-thirty's.

Except for special lawn and patio furniture made at the local lumber yards, wood furniture is no longer manufactured in Dresden. Mel McKaig's Furniture and appliance carry the new household articles needed by the residents in his store on Main Street.

* * * * *

McKaig
Furniture and
Appliances Ltd.
Home of Quality
Furnishings
FRIGIDARE - G.E.
CLAIRTONE -
HARDING CARPET -
HOOVER KROEHLER

Dresden 683-2761

BANKS.....

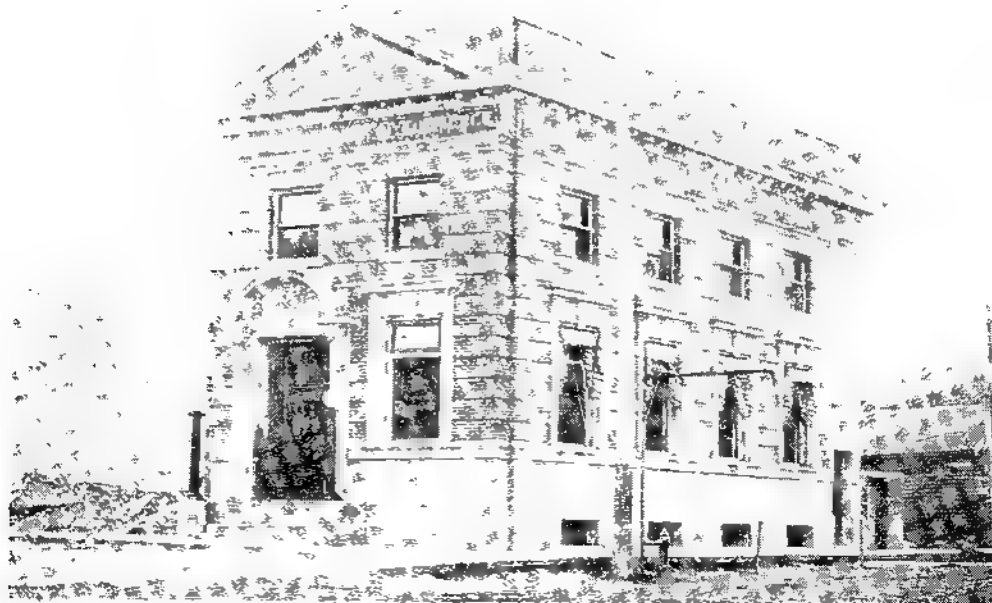
Early in the 1870's Dresden was served by two private bankers, James Stephens, a prominent business man, operated one bank. It is not known if this bank remained solvent or the length of time it continued to operate. J. W. Sharpe, Dresden's first lawyer, operated a private bank around 1875 on the corner of Main and St. George Street. This venture failed and merchants lost considerable money under Sharpe's management. Later the bank was taken over by the London Bank. Near the close of the last century, it became the Bank of Commerce. The present building was constructed and Miss Ada Miller, clerk, served the bank for many years. The staff has ~~been~~ ^{been} enlarged over the years and at present is managed by Mr. S. F. Havens, manager.

The location of the Toronto-Dominion Bank was at first a private bank in 1879. It was operated by two men named Livingstone and Fawcett. This bank also failed and the building was used by Dr. Bullis in 1885 as his office. In the first decade of the twentieth century the Dominion bank was established. Mr. E. W. Slaght, manager of the bank in 1925, remained until his retirement in 1957. He became the banker with the greatest number of years service in the area. Around 1955 the Toronto and Dominion Banks joined to become the Toronto-Dominion Bank. A period of general updating of the buildings and services took place. The old building was replaced with a new modern structure in 1965. The bank business was continued in offices at the Christ Church across the street to the north.

With a larger staff than in previous years, the bank is presently under the managership of Mr. L. Wismer.

* * * * *

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BANK OF COMMERCE

Photo courtesy Hugh Turner

GENERAL STORES.....

The first General Store in Dresden was a log building located on the river bank at the south east corner of Lindsley Street and Metcalfe Avenue. The Van Allen family erected this store at the time of the town survey in 1852 to provide provisions for incoming settlers.

William Wright operated the next store on his townsite, called Fairport. This building was on the corner of Water and Sydenham Streets. He also sold common necessities to the natives and timber workers about 1854.

At the time Dresden acquired its first post office, four General Stores were in operation. John Blackwood's near the present bridge, the Van Allen Store and Tavern, William Wright's store, and another located on the site of the present Municipal

Building run by men named Gilmore and Morton. C. P. Watson erected a store in 1859 on the corner of Main and St. George Streets.

J. H. Johnson's Cash Store was selling general merchandice to the residents in 1868. The "cash" likely meant he did not accept barter.

Alex Watson's store was open for business in the middle of the block near the Atkin building in 1870. Other General Stores around this time were; D. B. Williston on the river bank at the east end of Sydenham Street, George Webster, the second post master at the east end of Queen Street, Mr. Clark's Grocery on North Street near the present North Kent Insurance office, Martha and Sarah Burket, south side of the river at the present location of the Dresden News office, Mrs. Horning on the west side of St. George between St. John and Lindsley St., W. H. Gurley's store on the corner of St. John and St. George Streets, Joseph Hazlett on the west side of St. George Street between Queen and Brown, Michael Mooney in the same block on the south side of Brown Street; Killam's store near the bridge at the site of Wilmont's Motors and J. L. Leonards on the east side of St. George Street between Queen and Main. All these buildings were of wood construction and some have been moved to other locations or destroyed by fire.

At the start of 1900, Dresden was liberally sprinkled with general and grocery stores. Some were new and some had been in operation for many years.

An exchange of butter, eggs and produce for store goods was transacted as well as cash sales. North Dresden had one general store located just north of the bridge. On the south of the bridge Hamilton Wadell sold groceries as did Walter Watson on the west side of St. George Street between Queen and Brown Streets. On the corner of Brown Street R. P. Wright operated an up-to-date grocery. Still travelling south, St. George Street becomes North Street and a grocery store owned by J. D. Rubble was located on the west side near Robinson Street. This was later Noble Law's grocery. A family named Ripley ran a grocery on the north corner of Lindsley and St. George. Retracing the grocery trail back to Main Street, just east of the new Bank of Commerce, a store was kept by Mr. Burnies. West of the Hotel, George Cragg sold groceries.

Mr. Robert Brandon gives a complete report of the business in Dresden in 1951, covering the town from the north. He reports, on the north-west corner of St. George and Trelice Streets, a grocer, Mike Fry, was operating the store which has been a grocery for many years owned by; Wesely Brooker. John Francis, E. Holston, Fry and then by T. McVean and the present owners Mr. McFadden. Dresden's largest Grocery, on the west corner near the bridge, was operated by Roy Johnson, the present owner. It was formerly owned by J. Tassie, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Hyland, W. Bert Wees and then his son Gordon. On the south side of the bridge, on the north-east corner, the store owned by Glen Wicks and most of the former operators are listed above. Walter and Gerald Weese grocery, formerly the Dynes and Dynes store was located on St. George Street near Brown Street. The corner store of Orin Simpson was owned by Benjamin Madden for many years. Opposite,

north of the present municipal building, J. L. "Landy" Johnson was operating a grocery store. The former owners of this store included Mr. Stroup. A short distance north, Peter McDuffe kept a grocery store. Near the south-west corner of Main and St. George Martin's grocery was in operation. Other owners included Mr. McKim. Later Mr. Martin T. McVean conducted a store in the building. At the present Mr. Martin is again operating the store.

Noble Law was still operating his grocery on North Street in 1951. He gained many friends during the years the store was operating. Dresden's newest grocery, the Midget Mart was built by Ted McVean, it is located on 21 highway, just north of the town.

CASH STORE.

J. H. JOHNSTON,

DRESDEN,

IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,

HARDWARE, CROCKERY, BOOTS & SHOES

READY-MADE CLOTHING, HATS AND CAPS,

FOR MEN AND BOYS,

LADIES' MANTLES & MANTLINGS.

Customers will find our Stock larger and better selected for 1868 than it ever was before.

Plain and Fancy Dry Goods.

Having bought in the best markets this season, you will find them cheaper than they have been for the past four years.

HARDWARE.

In this line, everything kept that is required.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE

In every department, will be found complete.

GROCERIES.

As we purchase every three months, you will always find them fresh and good.

READY-MADE CLOTHING.—Latest fashions, goods cheap and stylish.

DRY GOODS.—In this line particular attention has been paid in purchasing.

PAINTS, OILS, AND DYE STUFFS,

Also, a Stock of **FAMILY MEDICINES, WINES & LIQUORS** for medical purposes. A call is respectfully solicited. Farm Produce bought and sold or exchanged. Agent for F. C. Hagyard's Medicines.

Use Dr. Widmer's Teething Syrup; Price, 20 Cts.

[No. 3.]

Dresden Businesses

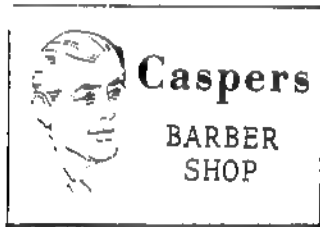
BARBER SHOPS.....

Dresden's early barber shops were operating from local hotels where a man might be shaved, his beard trimmed along with a fashionable haircut. One of the early barbers was J.M. Caldwell who settled in Dresden in 1880. Others were William Little John Creamer Frank Wells and William Presley.

It was the custom of the early barber to keep his shop open until very late or as long as the majority of shops. A notice was placed in the local paper in 1913 advising the patrons of regular hours, it read; Barber Shops in Dresden will be closed Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 o'clock - signed John Creamer, William Little, and Frank Wells.

In the next few years Fay Craig, Harold 'Dutch' Ellis and J. Ford opened barber shops, only Mr. Ellis's shop remained in 1967. William Yontz a new barber in the mid-thirty's is presently occupied in the same business at his shop on St. George Street, south of the Dresden News building. George Wellman operated a shop in John Creamer's store for a number of years until his retirement, this was located on the west side of St. George between St. John and the river. Casper Fass's barber shop is located on St. George Street, north of the municipal building. Recently Lyle Hooper's Barber Shop began operations in the store formerly run by James Ford between Queen and Brown Street, and Garnet Little keeps his shop on the north side of Brown between St. George and Centre. A barber shop on the west side of St. George north of St. John is owned by a Mr. Robbins who has been located here for the past year.

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MILLINERY SHOP.....

Fancy headgear was an article of clothing the pioneer women promised herself if and/or when the land was cleared and there was a surplus of cash. In the meantime, new ribbons for her Sunday bonnet gave her spirits a lift. Joseph Hazlett's general store on the west side of St. George Street between Queen and Brown Streets stocked millinery, as did C. P. Watson's store on the corner of Main and St. George Streets and George Webster on Metcalfe at the end of Queen Street.

Other general stores in the settlement in 1859 carried a limited supply of hats and trimmings or could take orders for a later date a few months hence. Alex Watson operated a Main Street in the middle of the block.

The dry goods store of Kimmerly and Aikin in 1872 on Brown Street stocked the latest straw and velvet hats. They continued to carry them when the store was located on Main Street from 1880 to 1967.

A comment about the spring hats of 1914 was made by a local newspaper man, "A person must be both a landscape gardener and a milliner. On many creations there are perfect flower gardens."

Dresden's millinery in the late 20's to the 40's was located on Main Street on an upper floor salon. It was operated by Misses Skinner.

The latest creations for 1967 are to be found in the Dresden Millinery on St. George Street North near the bridge. It is owned by May Ogletree, and is the town's only shop of its kind.

BEAUTY SHOPS.....

Hair styles through the years have been short and long, plain and extremely complicated, as the fashion dictated. The early hairdresser was friend or relative, to comb the tresses into the pompadour, bun or ringlet. In the 1920's the services of a man's barber was used to cut the ladies' hair in the Bob fashion under the helmet type hats. From the short Bob the hair became tightly curled with the aid of a tool called the curling iron.

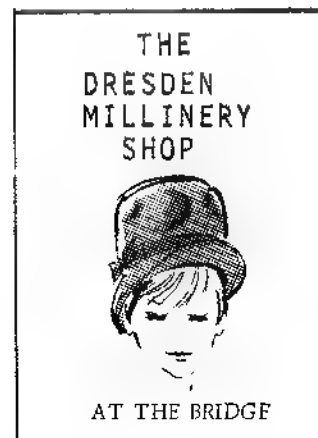
The first beauty shop in Dresden is not known although Evelyn's Beauty Shop was operating in 1930, where the Permanent Wave could be acquired and also the Finger Wave and Marcel. At present in Dresden are many beauty shops for Mylady to patronize, some of these are Jean's on Main Street, Audrey's Hairdressing Shop on Victoria, Carousel Style Studio, located on North Street, Verna's Beauty Salon, St. George Street and Wanda's Hair Fashion on Centre Street, along with several other licensed operators.

* * * * *

TAILOR SHOPS.....

Tailors were established early in Dresden's business shops. The tailors first mentioned were George Francis who conducted his shop on Main Street in 1871 and a Mr. Davies tailor store on St. George Street.

The Smith Woolen Mills, located on Metcalfe Avenue, supplied their store with fabric for tailored men's wear in 1884. The next tailor shop was on St. George Street just north of the Anglican Church and was operated by Harry Devers. A new business man to Dresden in 1906 purchased the shop of Mr. Devers. The tailor was Samuel J. Chaffe Dresden's last tailor. Mr. Chaffe established the first dry cleaning plant in his shop. He continued the business and his trade until 1945 when he sold the business to the present owners and retired to a smaller shop. "Just enough to keep him busy." Mr. Chaffe was still keeping busy in 1964 in his small shop on St. George Street, north of St. John.



Dresden Businesses

DRY GOODS STORES.....

Robert Aikin and Redford Kimmerly opened Dresden's first dry goods store in 1870. It was located on the north side of Brown Street between Centre and St. George Street. In 1872 the store was moved to the south side of Main Street.

J. Lawrence conducted a dry goods store on the east of Kimmerly and Aikin's store. Smith's Dry Goods Store was located on the west side of St. George Street, mid-way in the block. The Smith store sold woolen goods made in Dresden at the Smith Woolen Mills. Thus, three dry good stores were in operation around 1885.

The Kimmerly and Aikin store was owned by Mr. Aikin near the close of the century. Mr. Kimmerly conducted a shop and blacksmith on the opposite side of the street. The Robert Aikin Company was the largest store in Dresden. It had a complete dressmaking department on the second floor. The department on this floor was first run by Miss Roda Draper, later by Miss Ethel Farnsworth and now Mrs. F. Birch.

On Christmas eve in 1910, after a busy day preparing for Christmas, a fire broke out on the south side of Main Street. A number of citizens were standing along the Street watching the fire when an explosion occurred. A mass of bricks fell on the people standing in front of the Aikin store. Mr. D. V. Hish, a prominent resident, was killed and the Rev. George Long was so severely injured he died the next day.

The Robert Aikin Co. store was rebuilt in the most modern design with tubes running from each clerk's station to an office on the second floor level. After a sale, while the clerk was wrapping the purchase, the money was placed in the tube along with the bill. It was sent by air pressure to the office where the receipted bill along with the proper change was placed in a returning tube. It was quickly sent back to the clerk, who had made the sale.

After the death of Robert Aikin, his daughter and son, Miss Eva Aikin and Charles conducted the store in the same manner

as had gained for Robert Aikin the esteem of all the townspeople. The store continued to stock the latest fashions for the family from fur coats to tailor made suits after the proper measurements had been taken.

In the last few years, Charles Aikin advanced in years, retired and his niece, Halcyon McCutchin, conducted the business. After his death in the winter of 1967, she continued to manage the company. The store has recently moved three doors west on the same street. This store is the only shop in Dresden with 85 years of continuous service and operated by the same family.

THE AIKIN CO.

Main St. Dresden

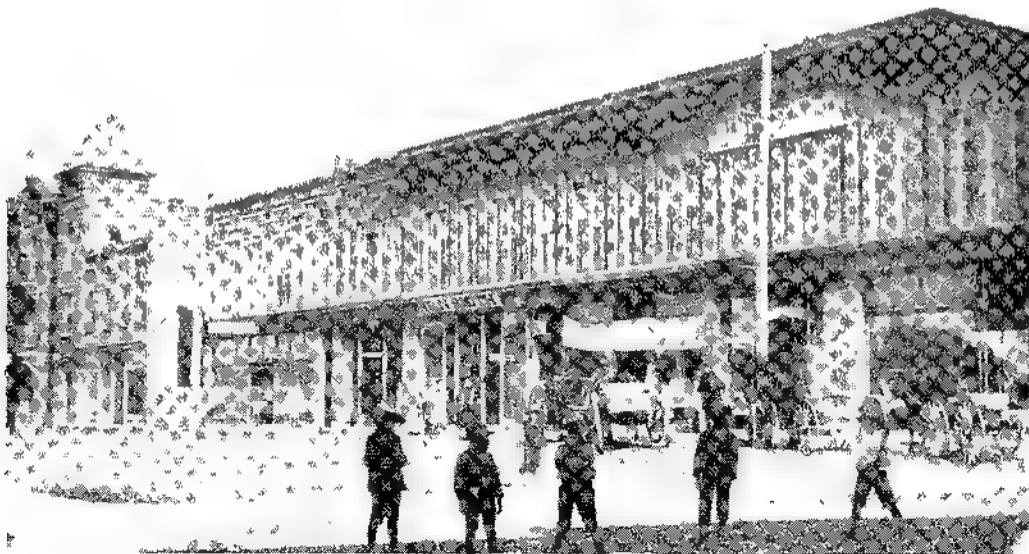
Gift items

KENWOOD BLANKETS
WABASSO SHEETS
PILLOW CASES
SUNDEW LINEN SETS
CANNON TOWELS &
WASH CLOTHS

Accessories

Leather, Plastic Purses
GLOVES, SCARVES
HANDKERCHIEFS
Koraton Slacks, Shorts
Don Bros. Woollen Sweaters
SHIRTMATE BLOUSES
INFANTS' WEAR

* * * * *



MAIN STREET

Pegg Val-U House

"THE ECONOMY STORE"

FREE EASY PARKING DRESDEN

DRESDEN'S ONLY STORE CARRYING A COMPLETE RANG OF SIZES
FOR ALL IN THE FAMILY

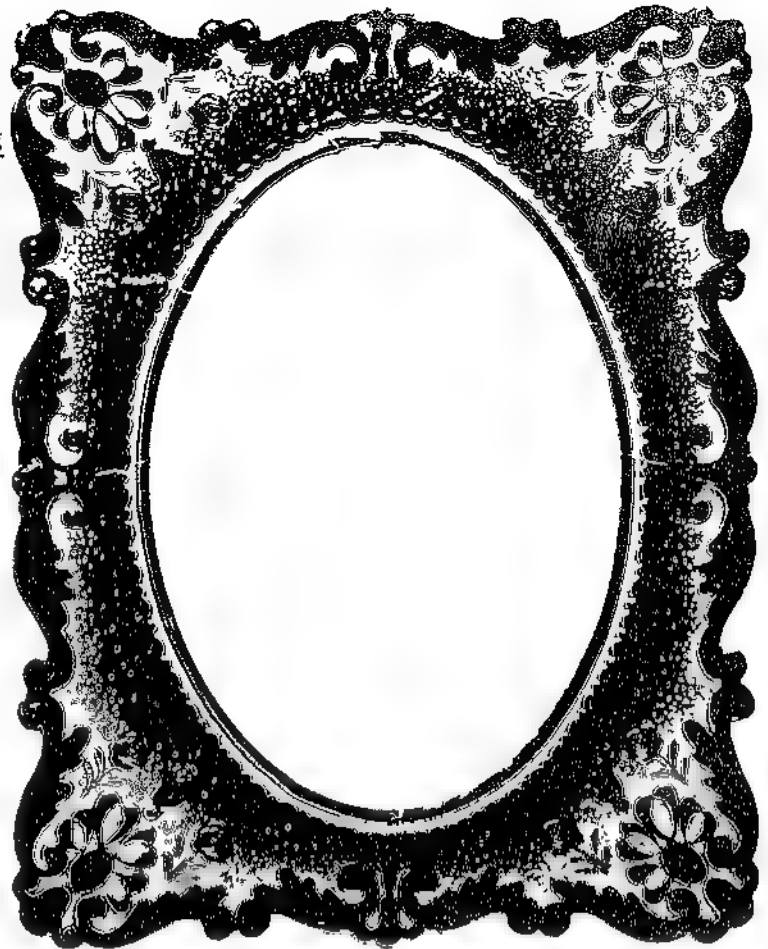
Pietens Upholstery

Draperies, by the yard or made up.
Slipcovering
Carpeting Rugs
and Wall to Wall

PHOTOGRAPHERS.....

In bygone days, the three most appropriate occasions to have ones likeness reproduced was; the first year after birth the wedding, and when the couple was wed 50 years or more. Portrait painters travelled to towns and villages at first duplicating the subjects in oils on canvas. Later the invention of the camera enabled the photographer to incorporate this new business with a more reliable one. A. C. McLellan, a printer, was located in Dresden in 1864. Dr. S. Clarke sold photographic chemicals in his store in 1868. Marr and Hawkins were in the business since 1878 and were still photographing the residents in 1881. At the turn of the century N. Louck's shop was on North Street near Robinson Street. Mr. Loucks also operated a studio at Florence. Around the time Loucks was in business, a Mr. Everson was active in Dresden producing formal portraits. As cameras became more common and photography less complicated, the box camera accompanied every journey and outing. The services of the professional photographer was required only on special occasions such as a wedding or anniversary. The Howell studios on Hughes Street, from the late 1920's to 1954 produced such formal photographs as were needed by the local residents. Dresden's newest studio operated by Murry McKim has recently been located in the family building on St. George Street where portraits to casual prints are available in colour or black and white.

* * * * *



Your Favourite 1967 Photo

* * * * *





MCKIM STUDIO



Box 550 — DRESDEN, ONT.

WEDDINGS - CHILD STUDIES -
FORMALS and CANDIDS

GROUPS - GRADUATIONS -
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

* * * * *

Photo courtesy Hugh Turner

Dresden Businesses

LUMBER.....

The first mill turning out finished lumber was located on the north side of the river on Camden Street in 1862 and was operated by John and Oscar French. This saw and planing mill supplied the lumber and plank for the first bridge when it was constructed in 1864. The saw mill on the British American Institute lands prepared walnut boards which the Rev. Josiah Henson carried to the first world industrial exhibition at the Crystal Palace in England. The Hub and Spoke factory, owned by Alexander McVean, was manufacturing hubs and spokes for wheels in 1874. This plant was located at the west end of Hughes Street and employed many men. Two stove mills were also in operation in 1874. William Wright was located on Camden Street, near the French lumber yard, making Staves for barrels and casks; Ed Huston and I. B. Webster's stove mill, on the river bank near the west end of Queen Street, was also producing the thin slats for barrels.

Doors and sashes made at the French mill, supplied the buildings in the area and they also exported a good portion of this product. The mill has changed owners many times with Laird Brothers the next to operate the business, and in the first part of the 1920's it was purchased by the Chambers family, who continued to make sashes and other wood products for buildings. E. Tew was the next owner and after his death the mill was managed by his widow, until the present company purchased the business in the 1950's.

In 1924, L. Misselbrook formed the company saw mill on Walnut Street in north Dresden. Finished lumber was supplied to builders in the area. The family operated the mill until 1963, when V. Pumphrey and Son purchased the mill and called it the Dresden Saw Mill. Finished lumber is produced here for local and export trade.

Bresett and Thompson began a small wood shop on the west side of Terice Street in the early 1940's. After Mr. Bresett's death, the expanding business was taken over by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Robinson, who operate the company on Metcalfe Avenue.

The Chambers Cash and Carry lumber yard was established in the 1950's, with the business located at the south of town. The yard sold all types of building supplies for home and industry. In the month of June 1967, the business was purchased by the Kent Cash and Carry, a firm from Chatham. The Dresden yard will continue to stock lumber and other building materials.

In 1872 N. N. B. and J. B. Carscallen built the three story brick hardware on the corner of Brown and St. George Streets. The two brothers operated the store until 1900 and a son of one of the men became owner.

The hardware was purchased by William Jeffs in 1913 and for the next nine years he carried on the business until Ern, and Harold Sharpe purchased the hardware store. The Sharpe brothers in turn, sold the store to James Anderson in 1928. Since that time the store has been operated by many men and it is presently under the managership of Mr. Walter Taylor.

Two McVean brothers, James and John, established a hardware store on St. George Street near the corner of Brown Street in 1874. It was later operated by a Mr. Coyles and after by Mr. Wells, until it was closed in 1924.

John Francis and John E. Houston established a hardware on St. George Street in 1922, the business was sold to Harold Finley and a Mr. Elliot in 1930 and they operated the store until around 1936. Ed McKay became the owner and he continued the business until after the war and his son John took over the store at the present location.

* * * * *

John C. Badder

FUNERAL DIRECTOR



**In keeping with
Your Wishes**

THAMESVILLE
ONTARIO

TELEPHONE 692-4222


* * * * *

CREST

H A R D W A R E

Dresden

Walter Taylor
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DRESDEN ONTARIO
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JOHN DEERE

SALES and SERVICE

PROP., LLOYD NORTHCOTT

Phone 683-4426
No. 21 Highway South
Dresden

Dresden's Businesses

HOTELS.....

Taverns and Hotels in Dresden's early days sold not only provisions and beverages to the lumbermen and farmers in the area, but were temporary homes and a common meeting place for new settlers.

To accommodate prospective settlers, the Van Allens built a log shelter on the south east corner of Lindsley Street, near the river in 1854. It was known as Kirby's Tavern. On the location of the present municipal buildings, another tavern selling provisions, beer and spirits was run by Gilmore and Morton.

Around 1882 the Shaw Hotel was replaced by a brick structure and called the Clifford House. The Wescott House, now the Dresden Hotel, was built in 1884. Moved from a location

At the close of prohibition the Dresden Hotel was granted a license to serve only beer and a ladies and escorts room was added to the mens beverage room. The present owner, John Primorac, operated the hotel accommodating the patrons with meals, rooms and refreshments.

on the Market Square, the stately Queens Hotel on the south east corner of St. George and Lindsley Streets, in the 1870's burned in 1933, and the Clifford House in 1908, left only two hotels in Dresden.

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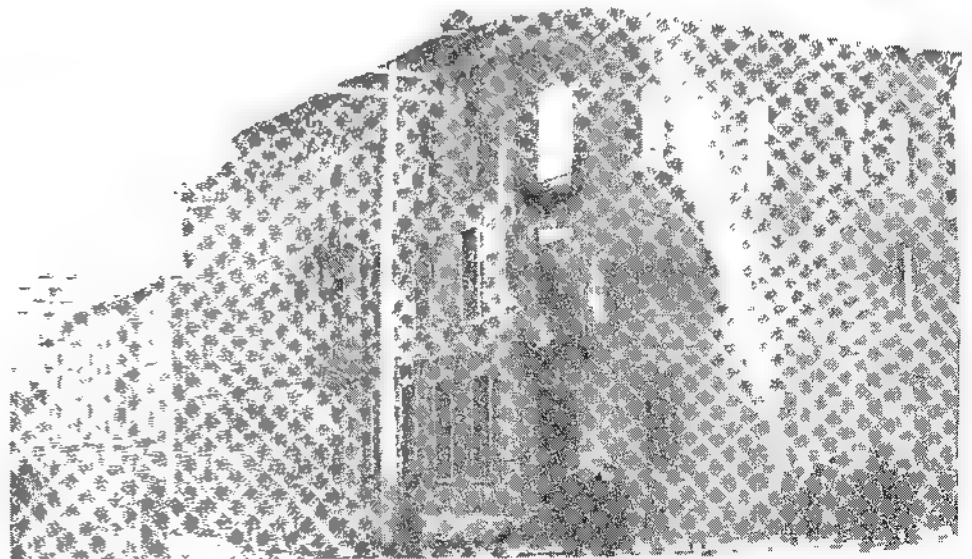
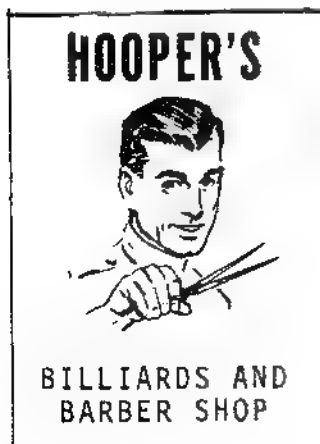


WESCOTT HOTEL

JACK'S
SERVICE GARAGE

GENERAL REPAIRS

Phone 689-2447



CLIFFORD HOTEL

Dresden's Businesses

UNDERTAKERS.....

Until recent years funerals were conducted from the home or church. Because morticians carried a stock of caskets, they included the furniture of household items as well. The earliest record of this type establishment was in 1870 when S. S. Arnold, a manufacturer of furniture was also an undertaker. The firm of Harris and Gallagher had an undertaking department in their furniture store located on Main Street in 1882. Richard McConnell was listed as the outstanding undertaker in the local newspaper in 1900 and William Ruble was operating such an establishment in 1908. At the time, his Funeral Parlor was completely redecorated. The paper states the improvement to his business on Main Street's north side. Mr. Ruble later moved to the south-east corner of St. George and Queen Street, where the funeral parlor was located for many years.

John Harris had an established business in 1913 near the Bank of Commerce, on Main Street. A new furniture store and undertaker, Mr. Harvey Holmes, operated his business on St. George Street in 1916 on the west side. Mr. Holmes also assisted Mr. Har-

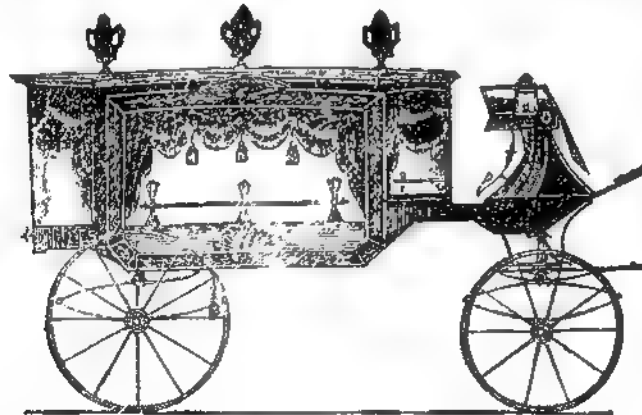
ris for a time. The location of the Holmes store was moved to Brown Street to a larger building a short time later. Mr. Holmes was joined by his nephew, Walter B. Holmes, who conducted the furniture store in 1946, and in 1948 the large home on Cross Street was purchased and funerals were conducted from there.

In 1933, Wilson E. Clark opened his funeral business on Main Street, east of the Robert Aikin Company and later conducted funerals from the present Holmes Funeral Home on Cross Street. About 1943 he moved to the William Ruble Funeral Parlors on St. George Street.

The Funeral Home of John Grass was opened in 1945 at the present location on Centre Street, with a complete ambulance service on a 24 hour basis. The first ambulance service in Dresden was combined with the H. Holmes funeral director, who supplied a limousine and later replaced it with an ambulance.

In 1965 the Funeral Directors of Kent County notified the public of the discontinuance of all ambulance service by their establishments. All ambulances now come from Chatham or Wallaceburg.

HARRIS & GALLAHER,



Manufacturers of Parlor Sets, Bed Room Sets, Living Room and Kitchen Furniture. An immense stock of all kinds kept constantly on hand.

Specialty—COMMON BEDSTEADS and CHAIRS.

Call and examine stock and compare prices.

In the UNDERTAKING DEPARTMENT we have a splendid assortment of Coffins, Robes, etc. We are also Sole Agents for the celebrated

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HARRIS & GALLAHER.

Main Street, Dresden.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY

DAWN TRAMWAY.....

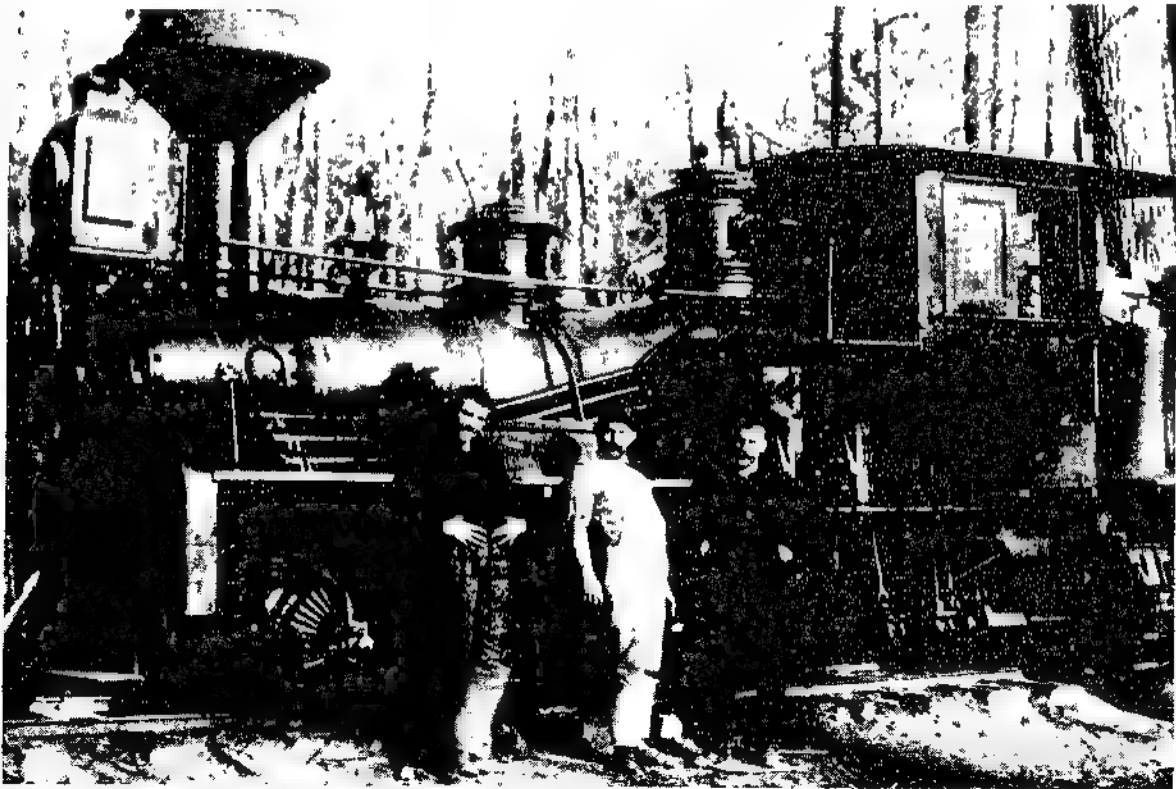
North of Dresden, Timber Companies were harvesting huge quantities of logs, hauling them as far as twenty miles to the Sydenham river to be taken by boats or floated to markets and saw mills.

Enterprising area men persuaded the councils of Oil Springs, Dawn Township and Dresden to survey a railroad through the thick bush from the Sydenham river north to Oil Springs. The survey was completed in 1873 and the cost of \$335.53 was paid by the three councils. The railroad, called the Dawn Tramway, was built with private funds. The tracks were laid from the Sydenham River parallel to the 5th concession and north to Oil Springs. Low hollows were filled with logs before the narrow gauge tracks were laid and at the south end a wood trestle was extended where logs were stocked on the Molly Creek Flats and later rolled to the docks built along the north bank of the Sydenham river near Graigs Island.

There was a terminal and repair shop at the south end of the railway where 'Old Brock' and 'Little Joe', the Tramway engines, were kept in condition to return north for more logs. The tramway engineer, George Kerr, made stops at boarding houses along the line to fill the boilers with water and to refuel. Some of the boarding places were operated by Dan McKenzie, Robert Naylor James Johnston and their wives. Logs were piled all along the Tramway and one of the largest piling places was at the 5th concession on the 25th sideroad. The logs and bolts were located on by teams of oxen and horses.

After the timber was cleared from the area, the Dawn Tramway ceased operating and 'Old Brock', and 'Little Joe' were retired around 1897.

* * * * *



DAWN TRAMWAY TRAIN

Development of Industry

LIME KILN.....

In 1872 masonry began to replace the wood structures in the village and a lasting binder was required to hold together the brick and stone construction.

The Trerice Lime Kiln on the south bank of the river, west of the bridge, furnished lime for the mortar. Large kilns or ovens burned limestone which was then pulverized to form a product called lime.

* * * * *

ROSS VARIETY

Phone 683-4464 Dresden, Ontario

CARRIAGE SHOPS.....

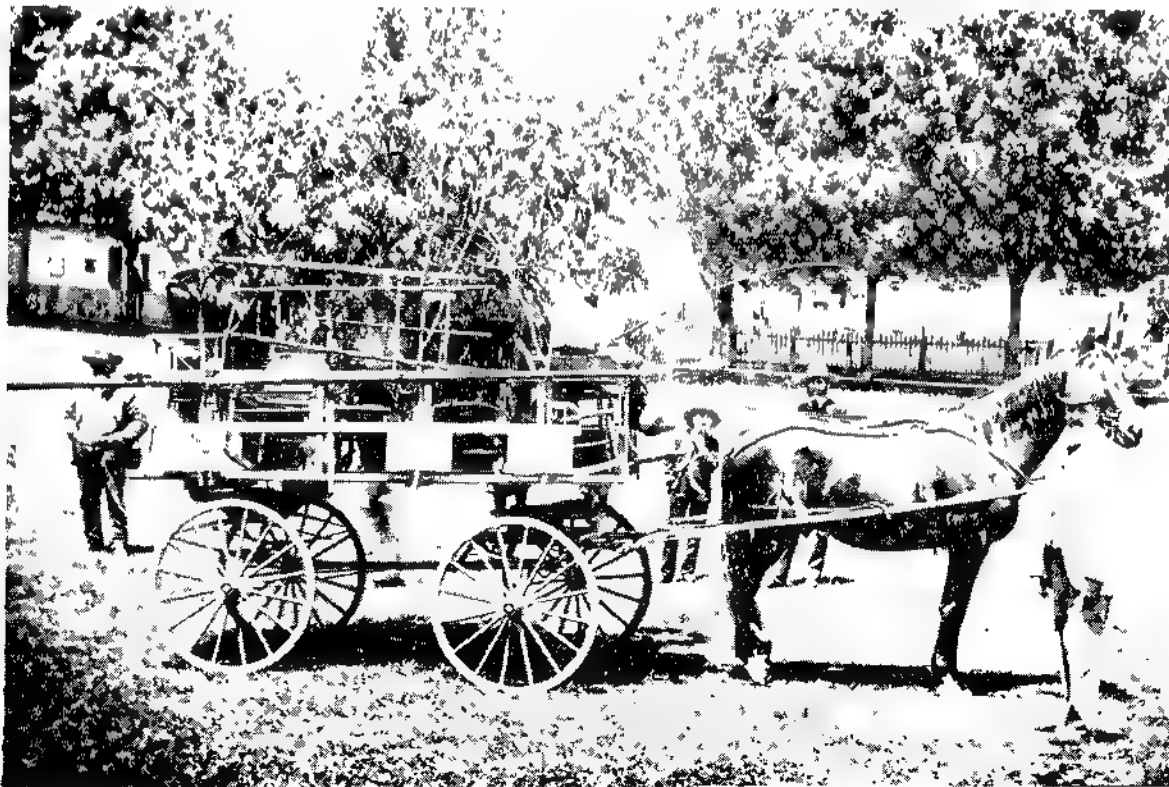
Sturdy wagons and carriages were needed by the early Dresden settlers because roads were in a primitive condition almost the whole year.

The first wagon and carriage maker, to provide the local service was George Adams. His shop was located with a blacksmith business on Main Street on the present site of the Post Office in the year 1862. A modest wagon and carriage shop was operated by Alex Trerice in 1874 in North Dresden.

The carriage shop of William Rudd's was located on North Street between Hughes and Robinson Streets. It was established in 1874. The shop manufactured the buggies and carriages used by every family. Carriages upholstered and padded in leather and some in velvet were expensive vehicles even in the 1800's. A special carriage with velvet tufted upholstery, the wood frame and lacquered, sold for as much as \$2,500. Less ornate and lighter models were priced accordingly. It was the custom to take Sunday afternoon drives after church, and the young people were apt to join in a race with their buggies. A favourite run was from Holden Street down the river road to the third concession in Camden Gore. In 1889, it became necessary to make racing to barn raisings an offence punishable by a fine because of the many accidents occurring.

The Rudd carriage shop continued operating until about 1910 when the automobile became more popular and the shop was closed.

* * * * *



HOTEL BUS

Development of Industry

CANNING FACTORY.....

Before 1850 the tomato was thought to be poisonous because it is of the Nightshade species, and as a consequence the valuable fruit was only cultivated as a flower garden plant.

A group of business men of the town organized a factory in 1891 and the Dresden Canning and Pickling Company building was constructed at the west end of Brown Street near the river. The factory employed 60 people in its two story plant sided with sheet iron. It produced 8 to 9 thousand cans per day when it was in full operation. Fire completely destroyed the plant in 1893. The loss of five or six carloads of canned goods ready for shipping added to the destruction. Although the factory was insured, it was not rebuilt and Dresden's canning industry laid dormant until 1902.

To bring back the industry which had employed so many citizens, the town council negotiated with T. N. Dunn a man who was operating a canning factory in Strathroy. A bonus of \$5,000 was offered in credited taxes and Mr. Dunn accepted. The two-story brick factory was built on Metcalfe Avenue in 1902 where apples, pork and bean pickles, strawberries and tomatoes were processed. The plant prospered under the management of Victor Dunn, son of the owner, until 1910 when the Dominion Cannery purchased the factory with Mr. E. A. Wall, manager of the plant No 5, canning the same products as the former company.

The plant was closed from 1930 to 1937 due to the economic depression gripping the country and the world. The company informed the town council in the mid-thirties, that the town was welcome to use the plant to ease the economic conditions in the area for a small operation charge. The council declined because of many reasons. One important factor being the lack of a market to dispose of the product.

In 1937, the company opened. The plant was under the management of A. E. Jefferies. He operated the plant canning tomatoes until 1948 when D. T. Misselbrook became the manager. In 1945 tomato processing was suspended and peaches were canned in that year which only tomatoes were canned in the plant until the building became a warehouse in 1949.

The expanding Canadian Cannery as the company was now, called, built a new multi-million dollar plant in 1947 on Wellington Street in Dresden's Industrial Park. The plant No 47, under the management of Mr. Paget, employs a year round staff and at the peak of the canning season the plant employs hundreds of local and transient workers. In the past two years the Cannery contracted two hundred men from Jamaica to help harvest the huge tomato and other crops processed by the factory.

* * * * *

FLAX MILL.....

Industrial expansion had its origins at the turn of the century and companies were encouraged to locate in Dresden and some were assisted by the town. The flax mill was erected with a grant of \$1,800 approved by the ratepayers in 1901. The Smith Mills were added to the new buildings to complete the mill owned by T. F. Hinnegan.

Richard Burns purchased the mill where flax grain was converted into 'tow' for the manufacture of rope, twine, linen and for linseed oil.

On November 13, 1930, fire completely destroyed the mill despite assistance from outside fire companies.

* * * * *

EVAPORATOR.....

An industry employing several residents in Dresden's early days was the Evaporator. The first factory was located on the river bank east of the bridge about 1875. J. W. Grece operated this evaporator where apples were peeled and the moisture removed by drying in heat controlled rooms. Cider was also produced as well as vinegar. The Evaporator closed for many years burned in 1930 along with the Flax mill and other buildings in the area.

From the many orchards in the area and also their own, the Mahler brothers opened an evaporator factory on Davis Street, north of St. George Street in North Dresden. The evaporator operated from the early 1900's until about 1935 when demand for the product declined and the plant was closed. Growing Spy apples was a specialty of the Mahler brothers and in 1913 a bushel of the best apples was given to the head of the railway company. It was delivered by train to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A request was received in Dresden for a barrel of the spys, as the company president was not able to buy such fine apples anywhere. He also wanted information on its culture.

* * * * *



SUGAR BEET FACTORY.....

Dresden's sugar beet factory was constructed in 1902 on property located at the west end of Queen and Brown Streets. The residents of town passed a bylaw giving the promoters of the factory a bonus of \$40,000 to assist in building the plant.

Farmers contracted to grow beets for the factory, although a large percentage were a good distance from Dresden. Because a sugar beet factory was operating in Wallaceburg, the beets were often transported by train adding to the factory's expense. Many came over the Grand Trunk Railway and then transferred to the Huron and Erie to reach the plant at Dresden.

A misunderstanding in regards to the assessment of the factory, coupled with the small profits the plant was making, motivated the owner Captain Davidson to accept a more substantial offer to relocate his plant in Janesville, Wisconsin. After operating little more than one year, the bonus was returned to the town the machinery moved, and the buildings torn down, except for the building used as an office at the west end of Brown Street, and one or two more which housed many different business through the years.

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Development of Industry

WOLLEN MILL.....

The Taylor Wollen Mill located on the south side of the river, east of the grist mill, was the first industrial building to be erected in Dresden about the year 1860. The mill was later acquired by a man named Smith and was known as the "Smith Wollen Mills." Wool fabric was manufactured and after washing, combing, carding, spinning and dyeing the sheeps wool was woven into tweeds, flannels, shirtings and blankets, for local trade and for exporting. The mill continued to operate until 1901 when it became part of the flax mill.

* * * * *

GRIST MILLS.....

William Taylor and James Smith located the first grist mill in the area at Lawn Mills in 1830. Prior to this time settlers carried their grists to Detroit by boat to have them made into flour.

About 1848 a grist mill was in operation on the British American Institute lands at Dresden accomodating the local farmer. The next grist mill known at Dresden, was owned by Alexander McVean who moved a building from Dawn Mills in 1867 and located on the south bank of the Sydenham river east of the bridge. The Fleming Flour Mill at Queen and Centre Streets was operating in 1872.

Alexander (Sandy) McVean, purchased the mill of his father in 1876 and he remained the owner until 1919. This mill was known as "Andes Mill" and was improved with additional buildings and new equipment as it became available through the years.

The most modern mill was built on the corner of Main and Metcalfe Streets in 1918. It was called "The Maple Leaf Milling Co.," and was operated by George Lawrence and a Mr. Walefield. This mill burned in 1919 and George Lawrence purchased the McVean Mill and continued in the business until 1947 when the present owners of the St. Clair Grain and Feeds took charge enlarging and improving both machines and buildings to its present condition.

* * * * *

Dresden
Dry Cleaners
Laundry
DRESDEN - ONTARIO



FLAX MILL

Development of Industry

TIMBER.....

Often early settlers arriving in the area were without funds to tools and provisions. They had only the Grant of land allotted to them by the government and meager personal belongings. To remedy the situation, the men hired out to other farmers and the Timber Companies as lumberjacks.

Lumber Companies paid \$1.00 for each acre of timber land. This Timber Berth was rented from the Crown Timber Office of Upper Canada. The district around Dresden was covered with valuable Maples, Oak, Elm, Walnut and other needed wood.

When the Berth was granted, the companies sent in crews to build shantys for the men and shelter for the oxen and horses. A head swamper with his men plotted the area and laid out trails then cleared the trees and brush away to make roads to the river. By cold weather, the logging camp was ready to harvest the timber.

The camp shanty, windowless and drab, had tiers of bunks which lined the outer walls, a stone fireplace in the center of the room provided heat, and hard packed earth made the floor in this shanty where the lumberjack lived all winter.

The welfare of the men was of little importance to most of the Lumber Companies and the diet of salted meats and fish, potatoes, and turnips combined with the strenuous work left many men ill a good deal of the time. Some camps fared better and pumpkin and dried fruits were included in the meals, tea and coffee was not furnished and some of the men supplied their own.

Whiskey was absolutely forbidden in camp because of the dangerous work where normal accidents claimed countless lives. Consequently, the lumberjacks were very rowdy when they came to town and terrible brawls are told of rival camps when they met in the local hotels.

Only the best trees were blazed to be felled and the branches trimmed away. A bush mark was imprinted on the end of the log to identify the owner. They were then skidded to the main trail and loaded onto sleighs and hauled to the river bank where they were piled to await the spring when the logs were rolled into the water and floated to saw mills.

At first only whole logs were sold, later they were cut into square timbers and boards and shipped by boat to mills and then made into finished lumber. The last stage of the timber business was cordwood. Since almost all of industry used wood in the area, cordwood cut in four foot lengths became one of the important industries marketing the product in Detroit and other cities.

* * * * *

SAW MILLS.....

The immense quantity of logs taken from the area around Dresden was at first floated down the river to saw mills and markets in Detroit and Windsor or larger communities. As finished timber commanded larger profits, saw mills were soon established at Dresden.

On lands of the British American Institute the first saw mill was operated by B.A.I. settlers in 1845 and by 1862 the saw mill of John French supplied much of the lumber for the settlement buildings, including the timbers for the first bridge. The French saw mill was located on the north bank of the Sydenham River at the present site of the Beaver Lumber Company.

Before 1870, a ships saw mill was turning out timbers for the boat building industry. This mill, a short distance west of the bridge on the south bank of the river, employed several men. At a location at the east end of Main street, Craig and Howard operated a saw mill, which was later owned by Alexander Terice.

Alexander McVean and H. Currie established a saw mill at the west end of Hughes Street in 1873 on property which was formerly part of the British American Institute land. Mr. McVean became sole owner the following year. The mill also manufactured hubs and spokes, hockey sticks, baseball bats, and other products in the many years of operation before the industry was sold to Kelsy-Hayes Wheel Company in 1928.

In the last of the 19th century Frank and Thomas Laird purchased the saw and planing mill from John and Oscar French. The Lairds sold the business in 1927 to the Chambers family who operated the planing mill until the early 1940's when E. Tew became the owner until his death a short time later. The business was then purchased by the Beaver Lumber Company, the present owners.

One saw mill in constant operation since 1924, was founded by Lambert Misselbrook, on Walnut Street in North Dresden. In 1963 the mill was sold to V. Pumfrey and Son. The name was changed to the Dresden Saw Mill. The mill is engaged in custom sawing as well as exporting logs to various countries in Europe and North America.

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Dresden Saw Mill

HARDWOOD LUMBER, TIMBERS,
FIREWOOD and SAWDUST
LOGS CUSTOM SAWED, HAULED AND
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VERN PUMFREY & SON

Phone 683-4384
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Walnut Street N.
Dresden, Ontario

HOUSTON'S SHELL SERVICE



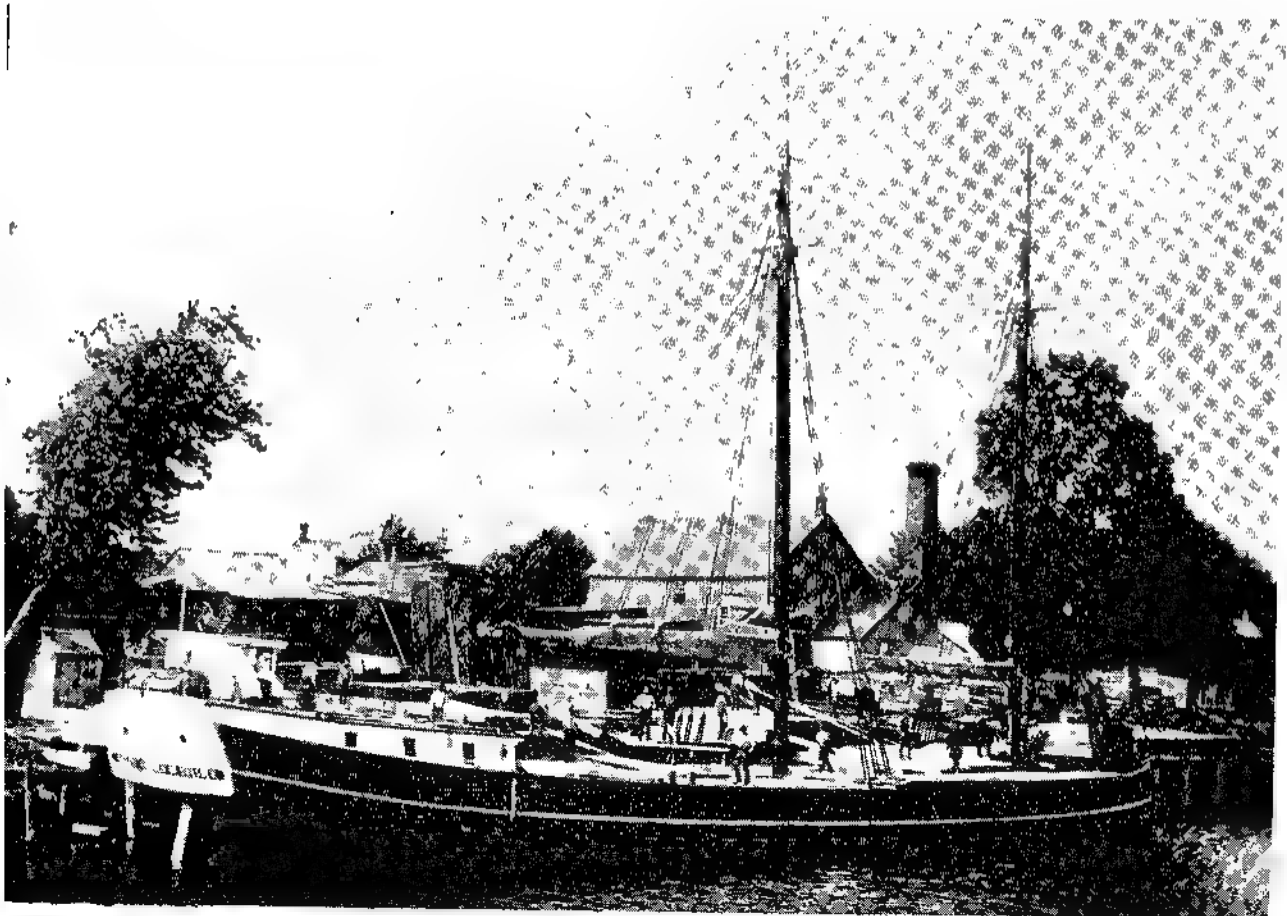
208 St. George St.

Phone 683-4496

Development of Industry



ST. GEORGE STREET AROUND 1875



SAILING SHIP AT DRESDEN

Courtesy of McKim Studio

Development of Industry

SHIPPING.....

The river flowing through Dresden had been charted around 1790. This is noted in the "Historical Sketch of the County of Kent" - published in 1881. The river, known as Bear Creek, was changed to Sydenham in 1841 to honor Lord Sydenham and Governor-General of Canada. It was found to be as wide as one hundred feet, and thirty-two feet deep in many places, this is deeper than Lake St. Clair.

The schooner, Olive Branch, was the first recorded vessel to sail up the river to the wild land that was to become Dresden. In 1825, it brought the settler, Gerald Lindsley, to his farm which is not the south-east part of town.

Boats continued to bring settlers and supplies, so that by 1864 the river traffic was constant and the new bridge was made to swing to allow boats to pass to the main docks at the Lindsley and Main Streets, and to the turning grounds beyond. A short time later the boat building industry was established and steam boats, barges and other craft were constructed at the shipbuilding plants. The most prominent shipyard was located near the present Dresden Boat Club. Such vessels as the City of Dresden, Enterprise, Byron Trerice, River King, Hiawatha, Watson Essex, and the J.B. Newman were among the steam boats constructed at Dresden and they played a prominent part in the early shipping on the Great Lakes.

Navigation prospered under the influence of men such as Captain Asa Ribble and Isaac Trerice. The area supplied many able seamen, captains, and valuable cargo to the world markets.

With the turn of the century, the timber supply was reduced mainly to cordwood, and with it the by products, and so the shipping industry decreased rapidly and some of the ships were sailing only the Great Lakes, a few of the boats were renovated and used as excursion boats sailing the beautiful Sydenham to the fashionable picnic areas at Detroit, Sarnia and Walpole Island.

Although the river was gradually becoming shallow, small craft and barges were making occasional trips to Dresden bringing coal, lumber, sand and gravel. A boat factory was building cruisers and small speed boats near the south bank of the river at the west end of Brown Street in the 1930's.

Gravel boats continued to come to town unloading at a dock west of the Beaver Lumber Co. until 1939 when the river became less than 12 feet deep in many places, thereby bringing to a close one of the most prosperous periods in Dresden's history.

* * * * *

DAMPER FACTORY.....

Dresden was chosen for the location of Canada's only Damper factory, when in 1900, Mr. W.H. Packham, who had invented the Canada Damper, built a plant on Sydenham Street.

The business was first founded in the United States and near the turn of the century Mr. Packham returned to Canada. A partner in the factory was Mr. F.F. Myers who later purchased Mr. Packham's interest and continued the manufacture of Canada's stove dampers until the 1950's, at the time of his death. The building was converted into apartments by Mrs. Myers and the machinery disposed of thus closing one of Dresden's unique enterprises.

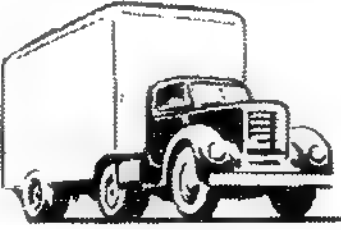
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HARNESS SHOP.....

Harness and other leather goods, before 1870, were sold at general stores. If repairs were needed, the person performed this service the best he could. The first harness maker in Dresden was Alexander Cuthbert. His shop was located in North Dresden just north of the public school. It was in operation in 1870 and for many years traces, bridles, hames, collars, tops, halters, reins, or any part of the harness.

Around 1908 Joseph Campion opened a shop on the west side of St. George Street near Lindsley Street. He made light harness for race horses and also repaired harness of heavier quality until his death in 1939.

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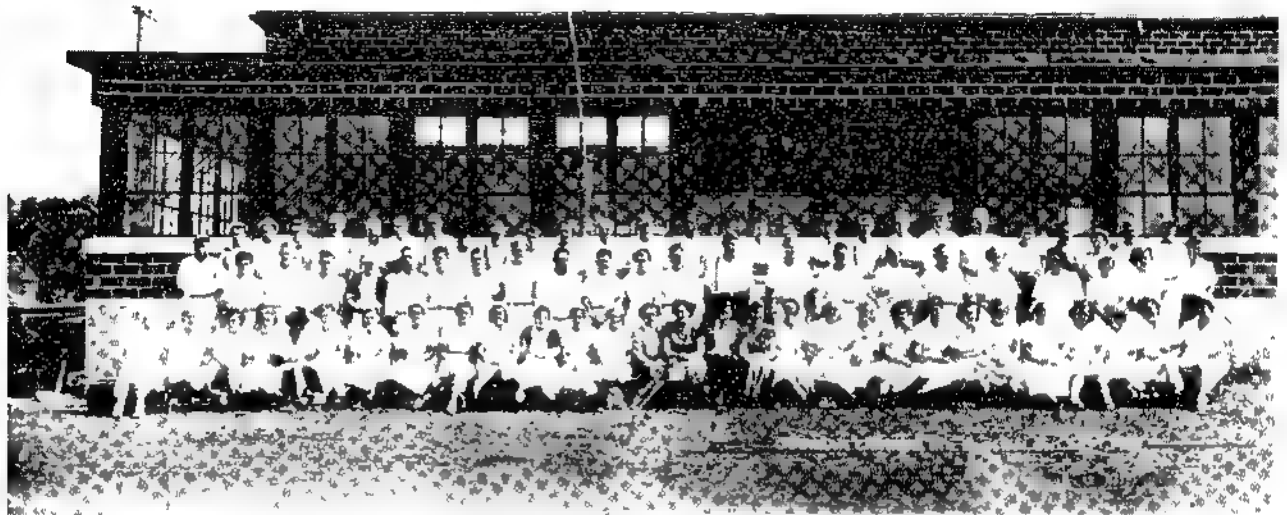
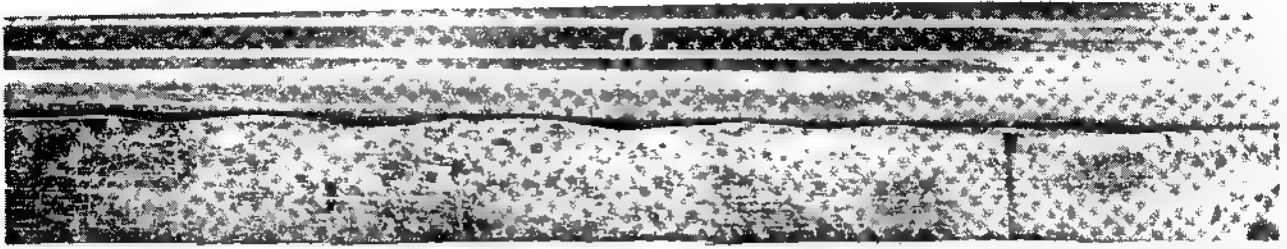


DRESDEN
ONTARIO
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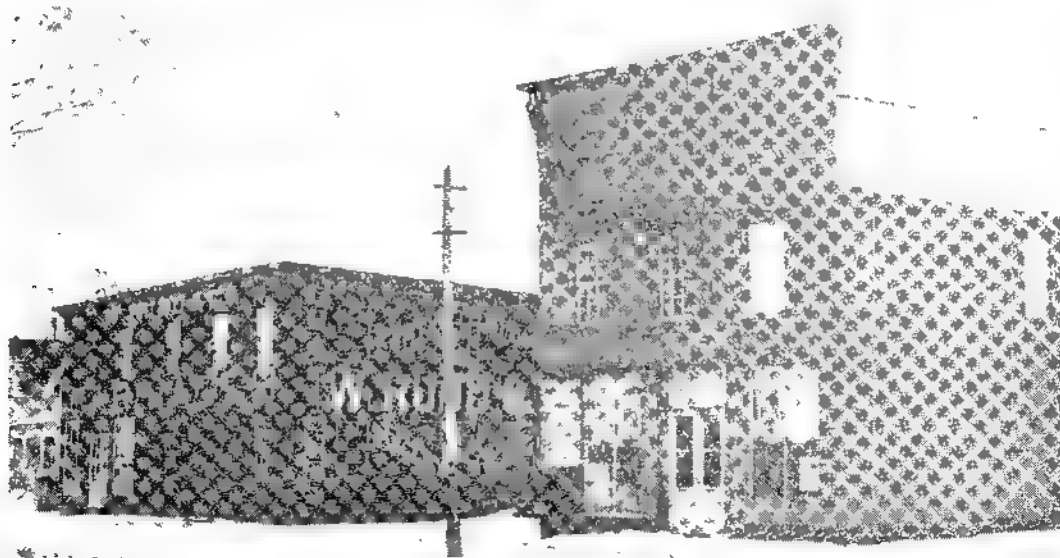
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SPECIALIZING IN LIVESTOCK TRUCKING
P.C.V. D.F. F.S. SPEC. F.

Development of Industry



CANNING FACTORY



CARRIAGE SHOP

Development of Industry

CEMENT BLOCKS.....

At the turn of the century cement blocks replaced stone and brick in commercial construction and foundations. To meet the demand, J. D. Rable manufactured cement blocks at a plant on Water Street near Sydenham Street. All the work was accomplished by hand labour. The mixing of the gravel sand and cement was done with a long hoe with holes in the blade to allow the cement to pass through. It was then poured into wood frames the shape of the finished block. These cement blocks weighed as much as 70 pounds, therefore, production was slow.

George E. Clark purchased the business about 1915 and continued to produce the large block. The plant was moved to a location on Main Street a short time later and then it was located at the Coal Yard and Builders Supply on Metcalfe Street. Here the cement block was produced for the owner building firm and for wholesale. The block was made smaller now and weighed around 55 pounds.

Manufacturing cement blocks about 1920 was the plant located on St. George Street a short distance from the Clark plant, and was operated by Arthur Hoyles. The firm of George E. Clark and Son purchased the Hoyles business and discontinued the plant on Metcalfe Avenue, remaining at the new location until the 1950's, when the cement block was discontinued and the building was used for other activities.

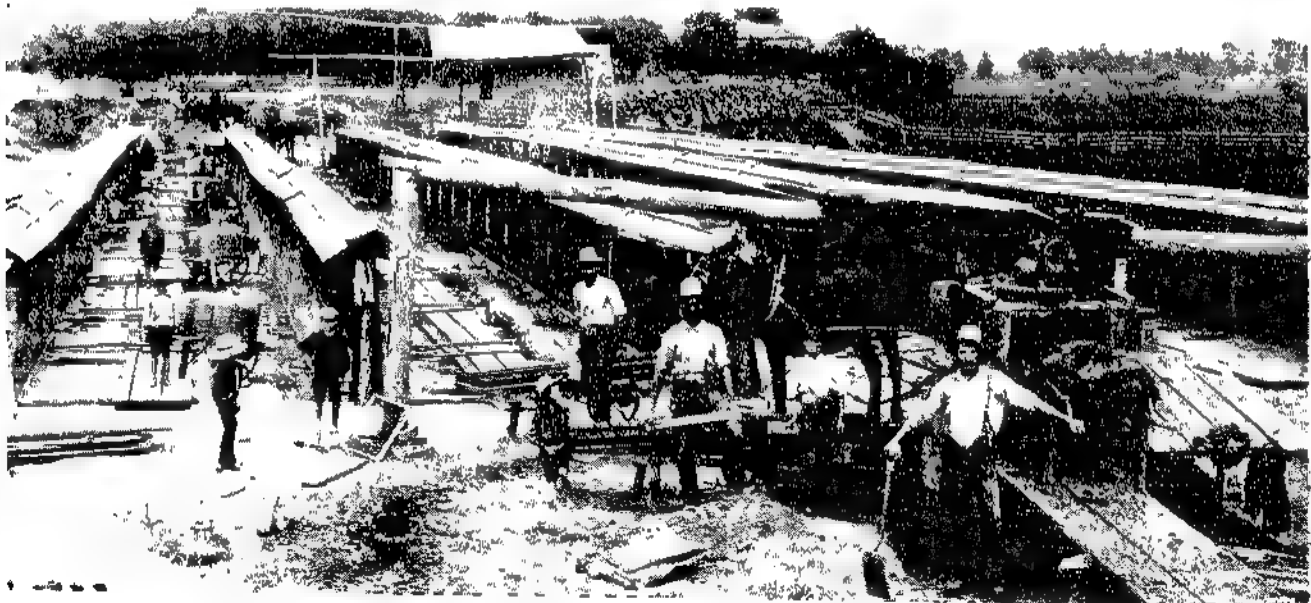
BRICK AND TILE.....

Careful examination revealed a vein of claysuitable for the manufacture of brick on the farm of George Fox Sr. around 1870.

The brick yard was soon in operation and producing from 5 to 6,000 bricks per annum from the land located on the north side of the river about a 1/4 mile west of the bridge. David McCane was making brick at his yard on the south-west corner of the present 78 and 21 highways in 1873. Later Alexander Rice and his brother, George Rice, purchased the business and it continued to produce brick for many years. From these two brick yards the greater part of Dresden's buildings were constructed. At the time the Wescott House was built in 1884 bricks were selling for \$4.00 per thousand.

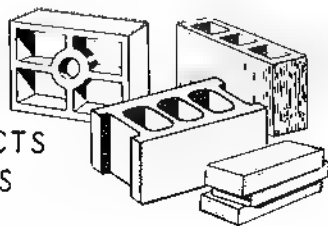
To the north of Dresden, on the concession 4 of Dawn Township, a Mr. Parks was engaged in manufacturing some brick and a good deal of drainage tile about 1875. Learning the business at the Parks Tile Yard was a man named Leatherdale who later opened his own tile yard on property nearby. In 1919 C. Gammage purchased this plant from Mr. Leatherdale and operated the yard for many years before selling to the present owners D. J. McCaughlin.

Another tile yard, west of Dresden, at Tupperville, was in operation as early as 1882 when Stephen Lindsay began making tile. The company has remained in the family through the years producing much of the drainage tile for local and distant fields.



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ENUMERATIONS

ORCHESTRAS.....

The first orchestra in the Dresden area was formed by Charles Campbell in the 1840's. Mr. Campbell excelled in the violin and his orchestra played at social gatherings and later on the excursion boat, Winona, on its trips from Dresden to Detroit.

At the Campbell farm on the first concession of Chatham Gore, a dance hall 50 feet long with a stage was the scene of many concerts and dances. As each Campbell child learned to play an instrument, he became a member of the orchestra, performing at Shaw's Opera House, the Dresden Town Hall, and at other local halls.

The Campbell Orchestra, with Vina, Lena, Thomas, John and Icum were accomplished musicians and played popular as well as concert music. As the years passed, only Thomas and Icum remained of the original family. Tillie (Mrs. Icum Campbell) joined the two brothers and the trio continued to entertain at dances in the area until Thomas died. At that time the orchestra retired, having given to the community over 100 years of music for all occasions.

Icum Campbell, the last member of the orchestra and family, celebrated his 78th birthday, May 10, 1967. He still gives a masterful performance of Stephen Foster's Beautiful Dreamer on his violin.

In the period from 1910 to about 1930, the Menzo Craig Orchestra was very popular at local halls and also resort areas, and private parties. Ballroom dancing was a favourite recreation of people of all ages and the dances attracted large crowds. The Tango, Fox Trot, Black Bottom, Charleston and the Lambeth Walk were favoured dances of the young at heart. In this era, it was also the years of the waltz contests and the marathon dance, where couples danced and danced until all couples were eliminated, leaving the triumphant winners exhausted but proud recipients of a trophy.

Active in the 1940's, the orchestra led by George Brooker supplied the music for the Rhumba, Samba and the ever popular Waltz. Included in the orchestra was Frank Brown at the piano, Carl Stevens, Robert Chambers, L. Farnsworth and Gordon Tricker. The Jitter Bug and the Big Apple were performed by the young people attending in this era of "Swing".

OPERA.....

Shaw's Opera House was built in 1874 on the south east corner of St. George and Lindsley Streets. This ornate brick structure had a concert hall and stage with dressing rooms on the upper floor and lobby on the lower floor. Stage plays were performed by stock companies who usually played a three day engagement in each town, the popular works of William Shakespeare were performed as well as classical readings and monologues. Travelling variety shows were assured a large attendance in the Opera House where magicians enjoyed top billing.

The seats were sometimes removed and many balls and popular dances were held. Menzo Craig's orchestra was a prominent dance band here in the 1920's, and Dresden Community Band gave countless concerts in the Opera House throughout the years.

The ball room was closed in the mid-thirty's at the end of the Opera's Day of Glory, and the building was used by Francis Foster to house his expanding creamery business.

The Melody Kings entertained in 1950 to about 1962 when music for the Bunny Hop and Ballin' The Jack were popular dances of the teens and some older teens as well. The band was led by Carl Martin and Gordon Tricker was instructor of the group.

In keeping with the modern trend, a band was organized in 1964 by 16 year old David Tricker. He supplied the type of music the young people were currently dancing to. A special rhythm was needed for the dances of the Frug, Jerk, Monkey and many other newly created dance steps. The Galaxies' members are Alfred Tricker, the leader's father, who brings many years experience as a musician to the band, and Stuart Wicks, the youngest of the trio. Versatility is evident in the instruments played. They include the steel guitar, spanish guitar, bass guitar, drums and saxophone and they provide music for Rock and Roll, Popular and Country and Western dance, depending on the age of the dancers in Dresden, Chatham, Wallaceburg, Sarnia or Port Huron.

'Midnight Hour', 'From A Jack to a King' and 'The Girl With the Red Dress On', popular songs of the day, are sometimes vocalized by David Tricker, and Stuart Wicks.

The Galaxies sponsor regular dances at the Richardson Hall in Dresden, where teenagers enjoy an evening of dancing under adult supervision.

A five piece band called The Enumerations, formed about 1965, has become very active, playing engagements in town and local communities. The band, with Miss Becky Wicks at the organ, is supported by Sherman Perry, the leader, who plays the bass guitar, Garry Mortier on lead guitar, Ronald Culver at the drums, and Wade Holland, guitar and soloist of the group. "Pop" music containing an unusual rhythm is the very latest in dance music as the teens perform the Shot Gun and Boogaloo at popular dance halls.

* * * * *

EXCURSIONS.....

When the timber in the area became almost exhausted and shipping by boat was no longer required, the owners renovated some of their finest vessels into excursion boats and made regular runs to picnic grounds at Detroit, Sarnia and Walpole Island in the summer months.

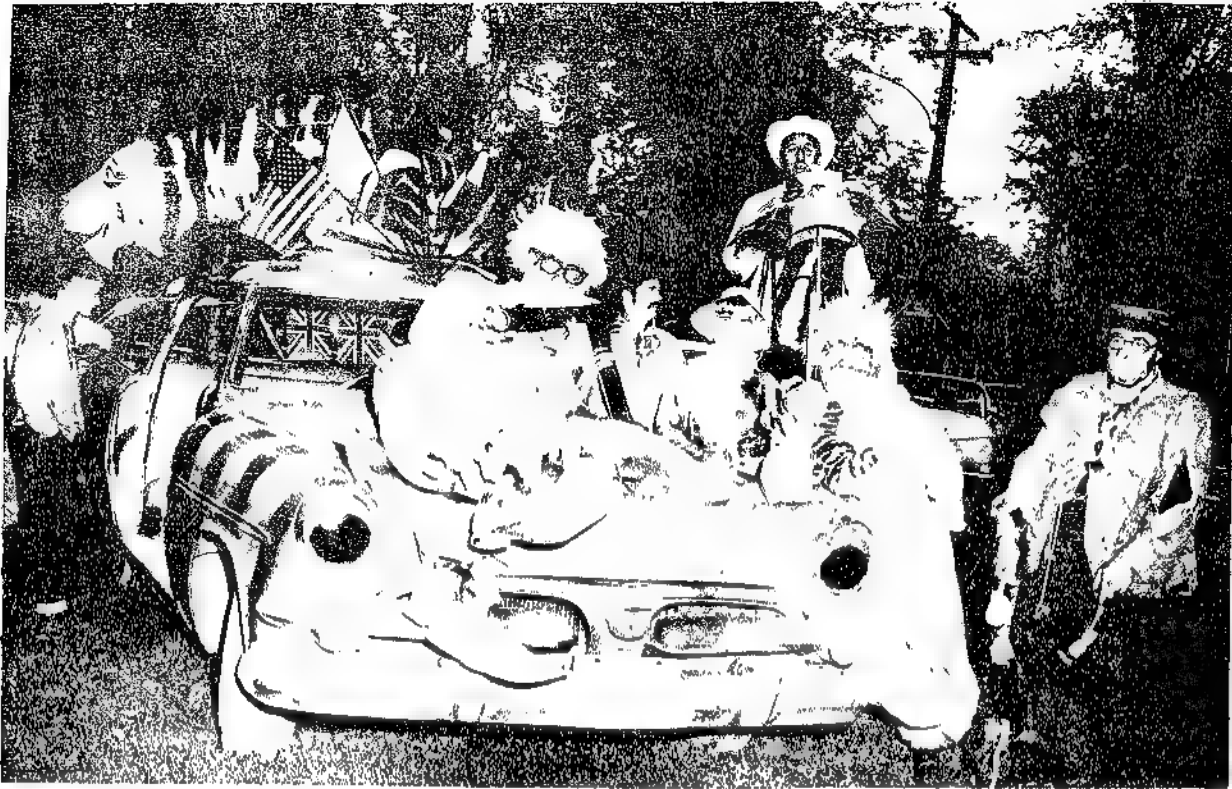
With a capacity of two hundred or more, the excursions left the docks at Dresden in the early morning hours in order to complete the trip in one day. Box lunches were sold on the boat or the passenger brought his own for the picnic at the parks. Entertainment was provided for the passengers in the form of band music, dancing, or a minstrel show, the first Dresden band was a regular entertainer on the boats, as was the Campbell orchestra who played on the excursion boat Winona for many years.

The trip to the picnic area was usually uneventful, but the return voyage was sometimes halted to retrieve a soul from the river who had fallen overboard in his state of intense celebration.

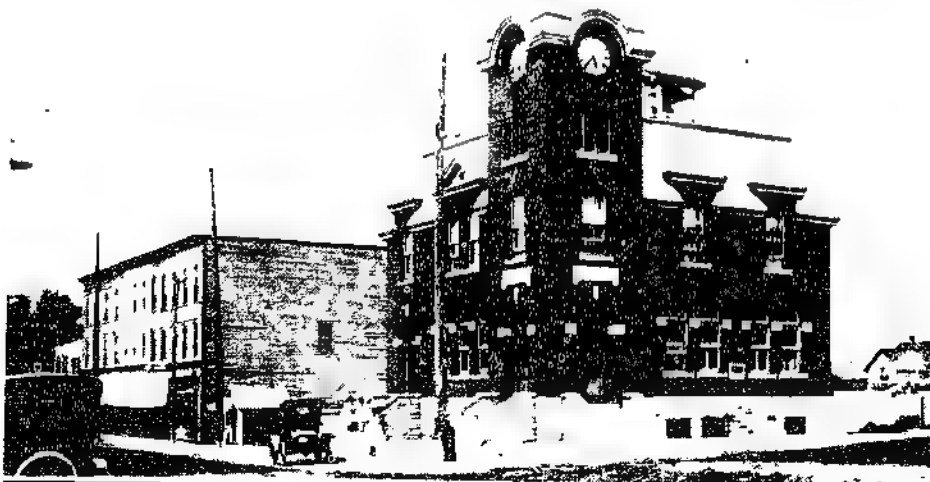
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Entertainment



1966 PET AND HOBBY SHOW



TOWN HALL

ENTERTAINMENT

FAIRS.....

Dawn Mills was the site of the first fair, where livestock was on display along with fruits and vegetables. The main purpose of the fair was to sell or trade livestock and produce. To add a festive air, the fair held contest of skill and daring and foot-races, and other popular games. No doubt baseball held the attention of many after the picnic lunch or dinner catered by a ladies church group.

After the drill shed was moved from Dawn Mills to a point on the market square in Dresden, business men petitioned the village council to hold a fair on the grounds and to use the drill shed to display certain produce, in 1875.

The present fair grounds at the south end of town was purchased about 1878 and one of the first improvements on the land was to grade and level a race track which was and still is one of the finest half mile tracks to be found anywhere.

Along with the exhibits at the fair a committee presents a program for the enjoyment of young and old. In the early thirties an old car race was a feature attraction where cars valued at less than \$75.00 were eligible to enter. The old cars were required to go a certain distance, remove a wheel, and after replacing it complete the race.

The starter of the harness races evoked as much laughter from the spectators as the ever present clowns. When the drivers were not able to bring their horses to the starting wire simultaneously, the starter would cajole and finally threaten to disqualify the driver, which very seldom or never occurred.

* * * * *

PET AND HOBBY SHOW.....

To bring a ray of sunshine into the lives of children from one to one hundred, the Rev. R. H. Parr, pastor of the United Church in Dresden, organized the first Pet and Hobby Show in 1933. Everyone was invited to enter his dog, cat, bird, chicken, bicycle, wagon, scooter, doll, or just himself dressed in costume. Prizes were donated by local merchants. The parade formed at the public school and stretched for four or five blocks on its destination to the Market Square, accompanied by clowns and applause as it passed proud spectators.

After the first Pet and Hobby Show proved so successful, the merchants included it in their regular yearly activities for many years, meeting with the same response year after year.

In recent years the Dresden Kinsmen have sponsored the show and after thirty-four years, children of all ages groom their dogs, cats, birds, bikes, dolls and buggies to join in the annual parade.

* * * * *

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TOWN HALL.....

From the time the town Hall was built in 1874 it has been the scene of varied entertainment from the Grand Ball on New Year's Eve to a special program for the benefit of welfare recipients in 1933.

Heading the evenings' programs was Harold Carter, billed as 'The Man With a 1000 Eyes', who answered questions not of a criminal nature; The Harmony Boys, a quartet from Dresden; Milton Bristo, Dresden's own poet; Daisy Hyatt, Dresden elocutionist; Old Time Music, provided by Charlie Shaw Nelt Marsh, Clarence Marsh, Jack McKernan and many others.

'Womanless Wedding', a comedy, was presented at the Town Hall in 1931, with an all star cast of prominent Dresden and area men from the Chief of the police department, teachers, doctors, lawyers, merchants, with the main stars; Cecil Babcock, bride, and Dr. Harold French as the groom. In the cast of more than fifty men, two ladies were vitally important; the accompanist, Miss Eva Aikin, and the directress, Miss Peggy Logan.

Amateur shows and plays were liberally sprinkled with professional performances, as well as spelling bees speaking dances and band and concert music. In the years the Town Hall occupied the land on the Market Square.

* * * * *

THEATRE.....

Motion pictures were shown in Dresden at Shaw's Opera House and at the Town Hall prior to 1910, when the present theatre was built by Albert Sharpe. Silent films, featuring the outstanding stars of the day, were shown accompanied by a pianist who supplied mood music. Films were advertised with the name of the story and not the performer, unless the leading star was most prominent.

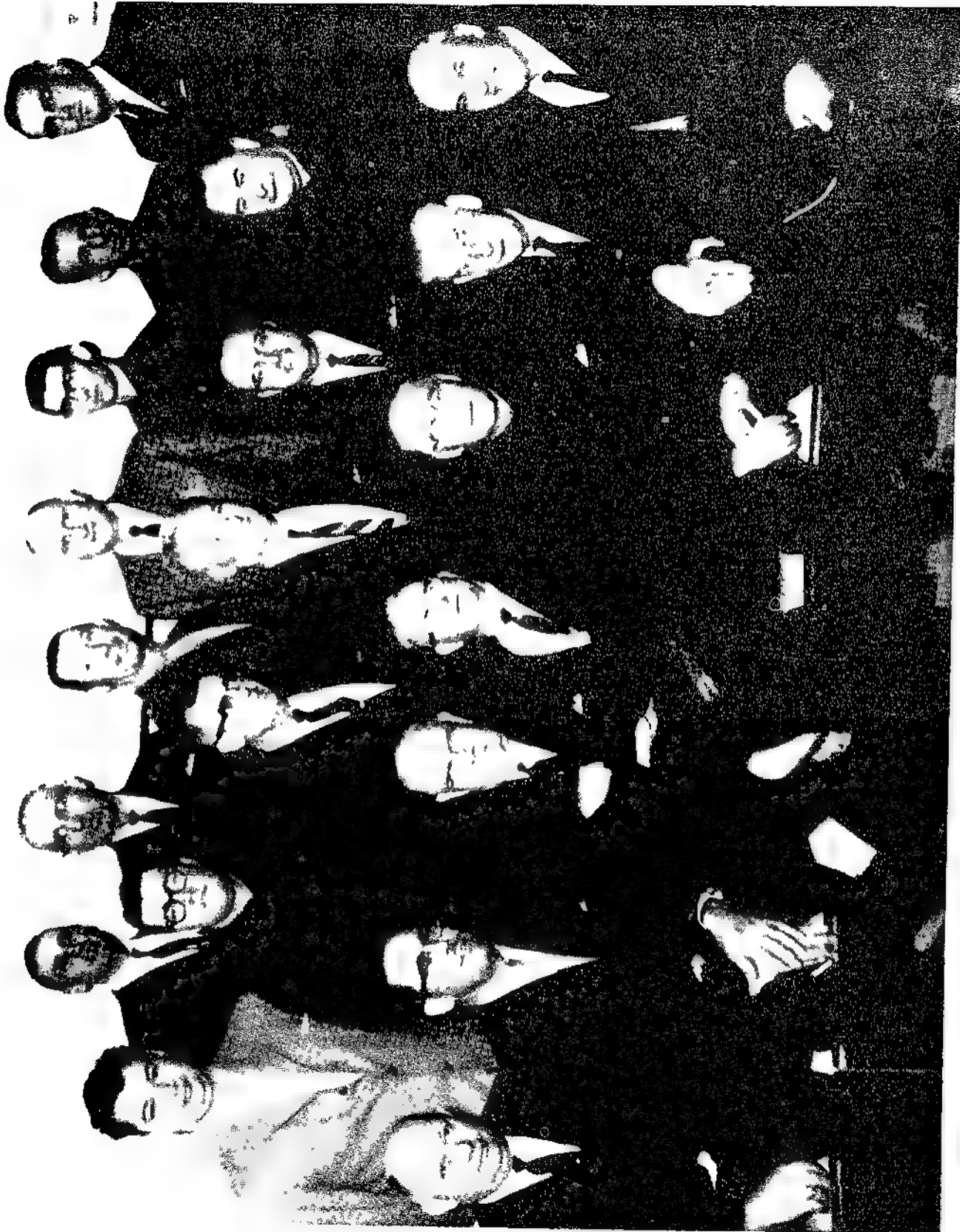
Madame Volga received advance rave notices in the local paper in 1915. Admission fee was 10¢ and 20¢ for this great story.

The theatre was taken over by E. Eberlie and later sold to Menzo Craig in 1917. He continued to offer the best movies of the day and kept pace with the latest equipment. The Majestic Theatre installed the talkies when they became available in 1930, and in 1933 Greta Garbo and Ramon Navarro received equal billing in the movie, Mata Hari. Around this time the cowboy stars were becoming famous and stars like Hoot Gibson and Gene Maynard captured the young boys' attention. Serial movies with Buck Jones, Tom Mix and their horses created much excitement when the serial ended the next week, leaving the horses stranded in mid-air over the deepest gorge ever.

In the mid-thirties a special showing was given, sponsored by a local group. Candid films of the townspeople, some in the most unusual poses and accompanied by thinly masked clues, were shown during the feature films.

Theatre goers today enjoy the film of the present and are sometimes treated to older movies, now called "Horror Films", that leave the young clinging to the edge of their seat just as it did the parents.

* * * * *



FAIR BOARD

ASSOCIATIONS

DRESDEN CAMDEN AGRICULTURE SOCIETY.....

The first Camden fair was held at Dawn Mills in the drill shed and grounds. This was before 1873, when the shed was moved to Dresden. About 1875, a number of residents petitioned the village council to hold a fair where horses and cattle could be shown and sold. Alex Watson's petition was favoured and the council appointed J. W. Sharpe, R. P. Wright, James Stephens, William Rudd and W. H. Switzer to make the necessary plans. The fair was arranged on the Market Square and the drill shed used to exhibit sewing, handiwork and other like crafts. After three years the society purchased land at the south of the village.

Charles Livingston, a banker, purchased from Josiah Henson, 15 acres on the southeast of Henson's property in 1880 for the sum of \$1,000 - giving him a mortgage for \$500. Livingston then drew up an agreement with the Agriculture Society to buy this land for a fair grounds for the sum of \$950, with the Society to pay the mortgage of \$500, and to pay all taxes and insure all buildings for at least \$900. The \$950 was to be paid in 4 months after date with 8% interest per annum on all renewals. Meanwhile they were to occupy and enjoy said property until default should happen to be made and to receive a free deed on fulfillment of all these conditions.

Camden Agricultural Society was incorporated in 1885 and again in 1895 when doubts had arisen as to the legality of the first corporation and as to their power to take conveyance of land.

Charter members in 1891 were: R. P. Wright, I. B. Webster, John Chapple, Charles Stephens, N. B. Carscallen, J. S. Gadd, Asa Ribble, T. N. Wilson, R. Aikin, D. V. Hicks, D. J. Huff, S. Sharpe, H. Weston, James Blackburn, L. V. Peters,

Walter Clapp, Thomas Wees, Francis Gifford, Wm. Paling, Arthur Anderson, John McKay, Walter Thompson, James H. Fleming, Srary and Son, Joseph Ripley, Francis Wells, John Watson, Olcott Wells, John Northcott Jr., George Gould, John Northcott Sr., Thomas Lashbrooke, Hugh W. Dunlop, Frank McKim, J. E. Meadows, Fred Wailes, D. S. Murney, George Teeter, John H. Burns, Thomas Pa. Jick, Wm. A. Robinson, Robert Blackburn, Joseph Childs, C. P. Watson, J. W. Sharpe, James Whitney, George Forshee, John Brooks and Alexander McCready.

As the years passed, the fair became larger and buildings were needed to display the many exhibits and the old grandstand was replaced with a larger one in 1949, at a cost of \$25,000. This is not sufficient at times now to hold the large crowds of people attending the fairs, horse shows and races, and additional bleacher seats are provided at the east end of the covered stand.

The programme committee has consistently enlarged the bill-of-fare through the years, with special nighttime entertainment and amusement shows in the centre of the race track, and the latest thrill rides and the youngsters' favourite, the merry-go-round for children 1 to 100.

Working to make the fair more interesting and useful, men such as W. H. Clapp, John Holmes, James Currie, Thomas Skinner, W. J. Foster, Clarence Craven, George Lawrence, Morley Myers, Ray Houston, Reg Tyhurst, Wilfred Shaw, Vern Robinson, Sam Wallace, John Gibson, Harry French, Roy Carscallen, Roy Stevenson, John Bridgewater, Alex Blackburn and others, have made the fair at Dresden one of the best in the district and the present officers and directors are continuing to keep it so.

* * * * *

BOY SCOUTS.....

The Scouting movement in Dresden was first formed in 1935 at the United Church. The pastor, Rev. R. H. Parr was the Scoutmaster of Troop 1, and at the March meeting plans were formed to attend the official visit to Toronto, of the Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

Less than one year later a second troop of Boy Scouts was established at Christ Church. The Scoutmaster of Troop 2 was Harold Jackson, and Assistant David Rigsby. Patrol Leader Jack Grass was later the Assistant Scoutmaster.

At a rally of the Kent County Association of Boy Scouts held at Dresden, over 200 boys attended the meet at the Market Square in 1935. Scouting flourished under the leadership of able Scouts during the following decade, and by 1947 the movement had grown to such an extent that a Drum and Bugle Band was formed with Boy Scouts and Wolfe Cubs.

The year of 1947 was filled with great accomplishments beginning with a travelling canteen, which was a converted bus; a Scout and Guide camp building, kitchen and restaurant at the Fair Grounds and largest single accomplishment was the Scout Hall on Brown Street, which the Scouts purchased and renovated.

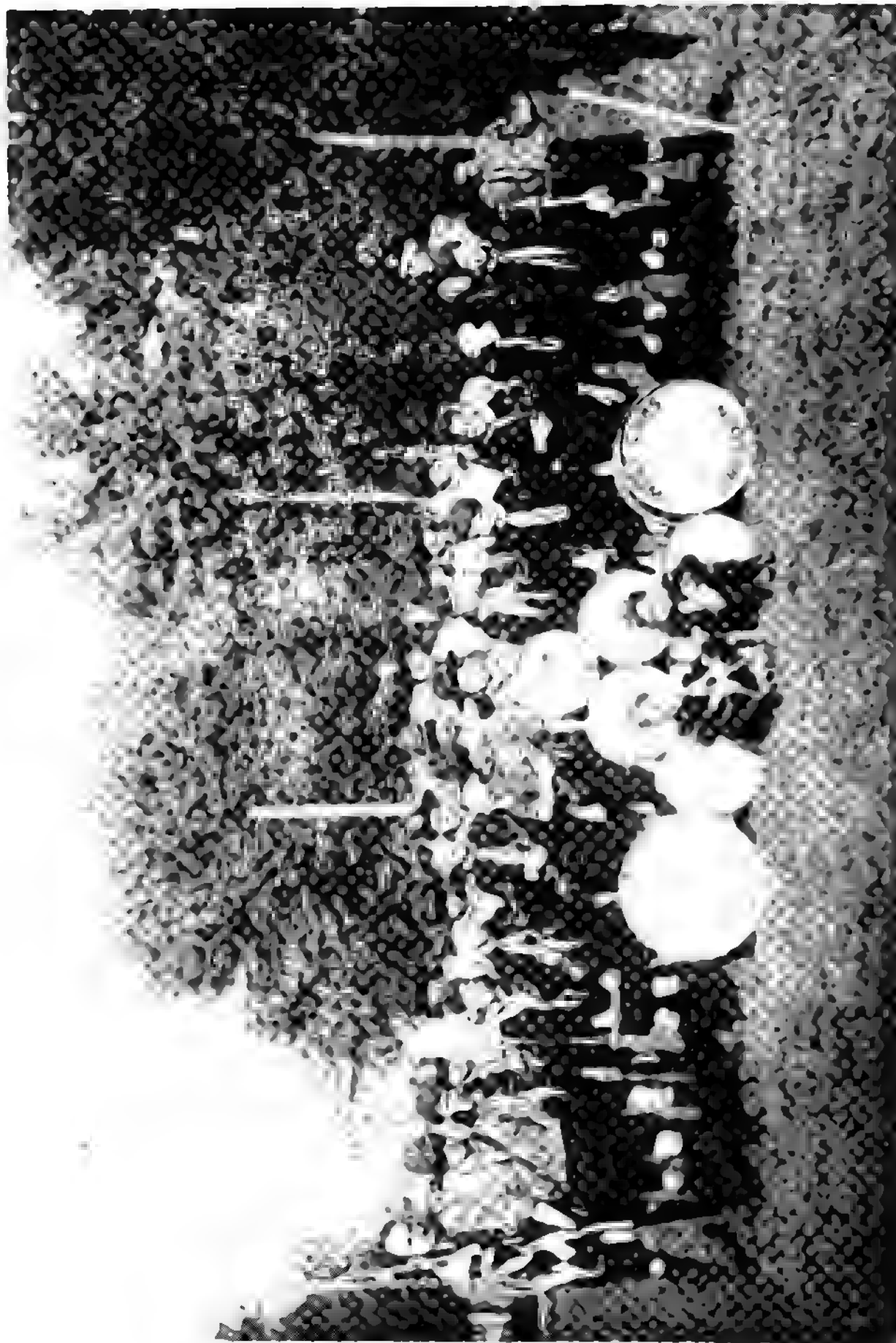
Donating funds and labour both, the residents of Dresden and district wholeheartedly supported this giant venture, and it proved fruitful when the Scouts and Guides exercised the Third Scout Law at the time of the flood in 1947; - "To Be Useful and To Help Others".

Larger quarters were purchased in 1965 and the older building sold. The new hall, located on Lindsley Street, was purchased through the generosity of the residents, and a good deal of hard work on the part of all the Scouts and Guides.

Formal opening services were conducted in February, 1967, with Donald Deacon representing the Great Lakes Region, Provincial Headquarters, for the Boy Scouts of Canada. Chairman of the ceremonies was Harold McKim, a former Assistant Scoutmaster, and many other "Friends of Scouting".

Associated with Scouting for many years, the present Scoutmaster is Ross Card, Cubmaster is Dick Elgie, and the Assistant Cubmaster is Bill Moor.

Older boys of high school age are active in the Venturers, who hold regular meetings at the Scout Hall, with elected President David Card, Secretary Jack Spearman and Treasurer Donald Sutton.



DRESDEN BOY SCOUTS

Clubs and Fraternal Groups

ART CLUB.....

Dresden's cultural development turns to the fine arts every Tuesday night from fall to spring, when local artists meet to paint and discuss various techniques.

Formed in 1963, the Art Club has grown to more than twenty members. Accomplished artists such as Mrs. C. Marsh, Mrs. Leo Witson, Mrs. W. C. Lawrence, and Miss Freda Suderman give assistance to novice painters at the informal sessions.

In 1966 the I.O.D.E. sponsored a successful art show in the local paint and wallpaper store. Over 150 exhibits were displayed ranging from oils to water colours and subjects ranging from portraits to abstract art.

The Art Club closes each year with a dinner meeting where the members display one of his favourite paintings.

* * * * *

OPTIMIST CLUB.....

The Dresden Optimists were first formed in the 1940's with Dr. J. G. Woods president and nearly 30 members. While the club was active it accomplished the purchase of a lot and building (now the property is the Dresden Hydro site), and turned the former implement building into a youth centre, and equipped it with power tools.

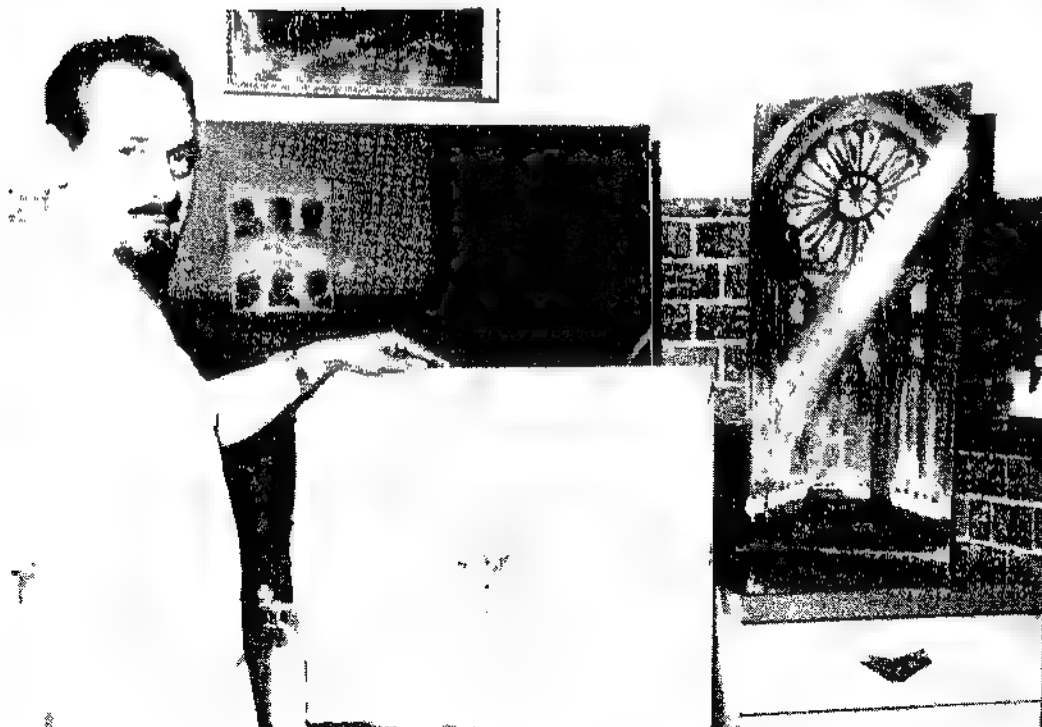
After a time attendance of Optimist members became small and the club disbanded, giving the Boy Scouts the building.

Reorganized on February 14, 1967, with 30 members, the club immediately set about to provide supervised recreation for boys, and basketball games at the Lambton-Kent District High School were a regular Sunday afternoon activity.

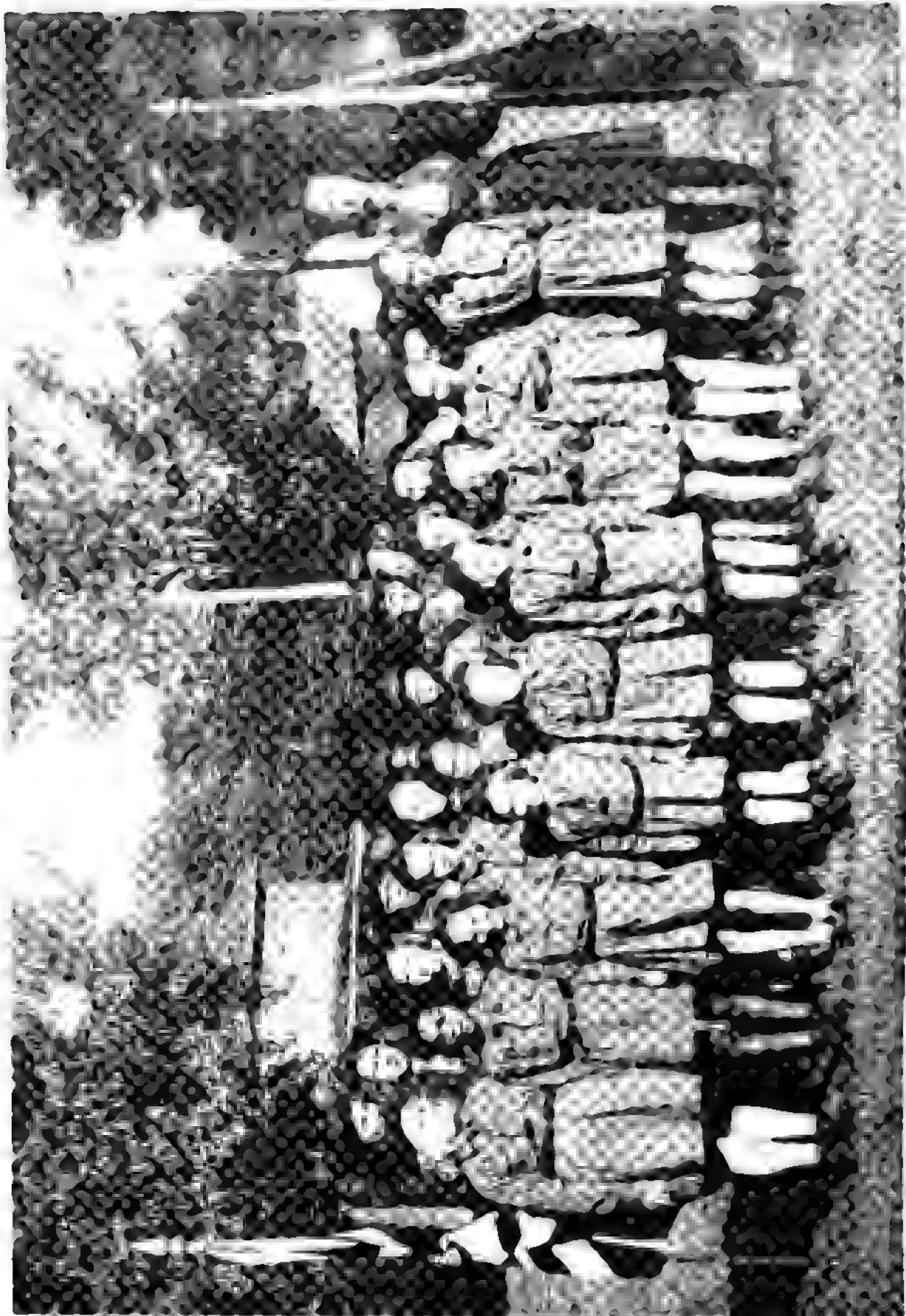
The object of the Optimist is to aid and encourage the development of youth, and President Donald Hancock accepted the charter at a dinner April 14, 1967 for the members, which included Vice-Presidents Donald Smith and Martin Zruns, and Secretary-Treasurer, Lorne Sharpe.

Dresden Optimists have assisted the Boy Scouts with proceeds from a pop bottle drive, and funds gained by a recent car wash will be used to further the 'Friend of the Boy' service.

* * * * *



CASPER FAAS, LOCAL ARTIST



DRESDEN GIRL GUIDES

Associations

DRESDEN SPORTSMEN CLUB.....

On April 10, 1958, a group of sportsmen met at Dresden to form a club. At the first meeting a name, the Dresden Sportsmen Club, was selected and officers elected.

The club set in motion the plans for the year which included a fishing tournament on April 27. Committees were busy locating a site for meetings and special activities. The Dresden Sportsmen Club name was chosen over the Dresden Anglers Club, because of the planned events which included not only fishing but all out-of-doors sports. Officers of 1958 were: Lyle Houston, President; James Babcock, Secretary-Treasurer; and the Executive Members included Ross Card, Terry Martin, Keith Babcock, Ed McNally and Hank Strasse.


Sixty-six members were attracted by the fishing tournament at Roy (Bus) Houstons farm on the Sydenham River, a children's contest with special speakers from the Department of Lands and Forests, films and social evenings.

In 1964 land was leased where the club could meet for fishing and practice angling. The ground on the river bank was leveled and cleaned of brush and a proposed trap shoot range located on the site.

A building fund was established in 1959 and the members built the clubhouse in 1965. The first meeting was held on October 1965 in the partially completed building. The following spring the members worked evenings and weekends to install a kitchen and paint the building. Safety in field and stream is foremost in the policy of the club. They work closely with the Game Warden of the district informing the members of new rules and regulations.

The elected officers of 1967 are: President, Ed McNally; 1st Vice President, Ray Johnson; 2nd Vice President, Archie Avery; Secretary, Allan Dolson; Treasurer, George Bedell.

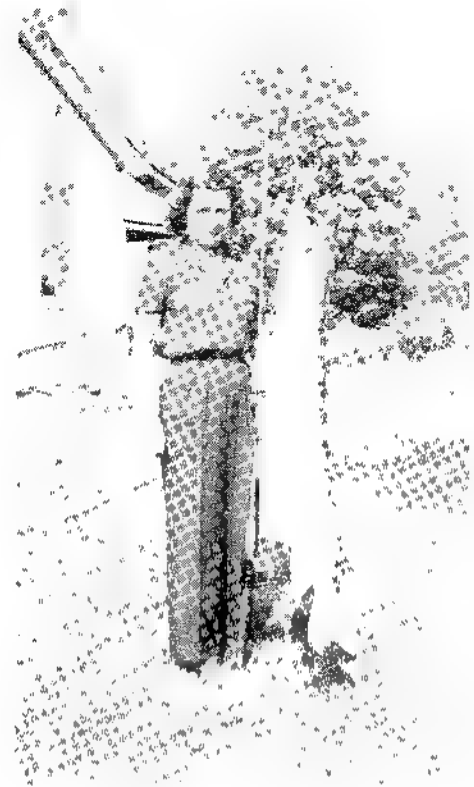
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Associations

DRESDEN BOAT CLUB.....

The Dresden Boat Club was organized when a few power boat owners gathered in Dresden in 1958, for a planned cruise to Mitchell's Bay.

The cruise was an immediate success, and was followed by others, but since there were only one or two places along the Sydenham River where a boat could be launched, the club was organized so that launching ramps could be installed for the convenience of the members.

Working evenings, the members built two launching ramps on property leased from the Dresden Utilities, and constructed 190 feet of docking. Later the land was purchased from the Utilities Commission, along with two adjoining lots giving the club 250 feet of river frontage.

In the summer of 1959, a power squadron from Pontiac, Michigan, contacted the local club, inquiring if their boats could navigate the Sydenham as far as Dresden. Not only were they welcome to visit the Dresden Club but were met at the mouth of the Snye, west of Wallaceburg, and escorted up the river.

The visit by the Pontiac club found the Dresden club enthusiastic hosts with their borrowed picnic tables, chairs and outdoor equipment. The first picnic table for the club was donated by the Pontiac club. The next year no less than 10 organized cruises visited Dresden and the local members played host, improving the picnic grounds and arranging tours to points of interest.

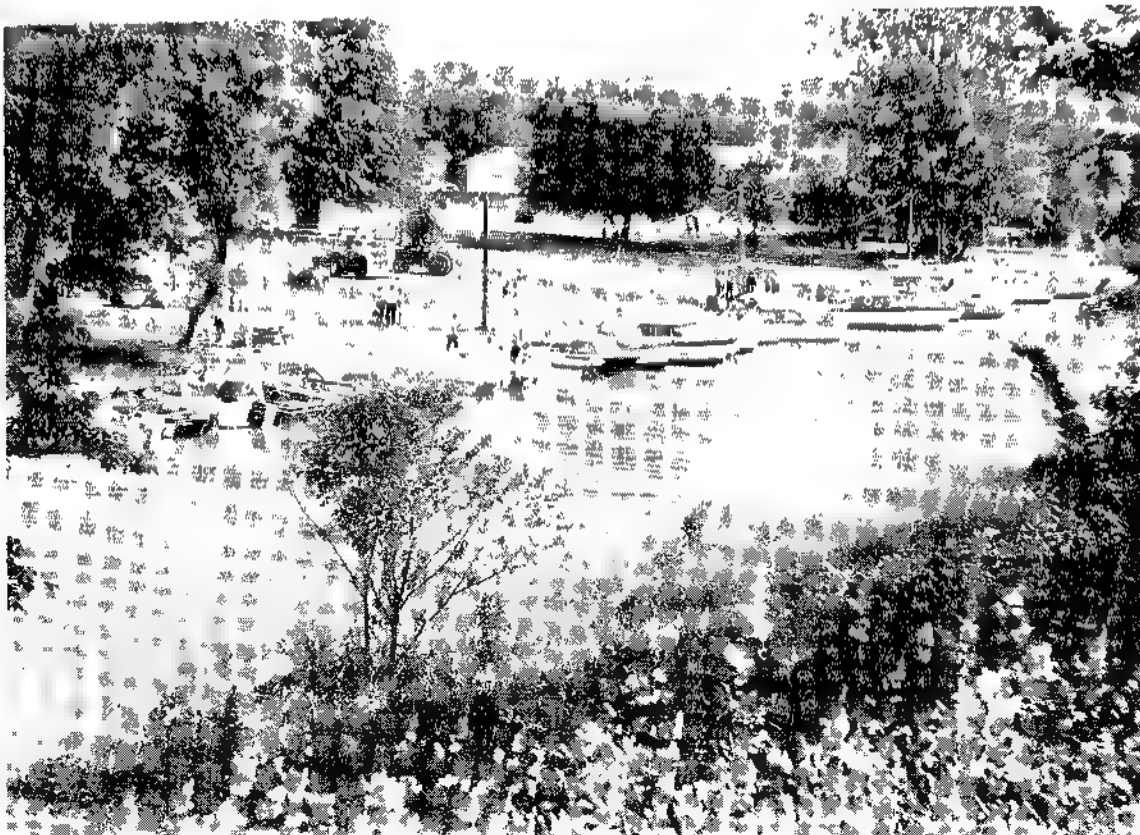
Dresden club members charted the Sydenham River between home port and Wallaceburg, marking the 'deadheads' with buoys and cleared a good deal of the logs and obstacles from the river. After many requests the Government dredged the river, making it possible for larger craft to navigate the river.

In 1961 a small cottage was moved to the club property and remodelled into a clubhouse. An addition was added in 1964 which includes a kitchen completely equipped and a general meeting room large enough to accommodate members and their friends at winter activities.

The 30 members of the Dresden Boat Club sponsor each year a carnival. Last year, more than 300 boats visited Dresden, where an open air barbecue became the busiest spot on the grounds.

Plans for Canada's Centennial Year include a series of cruises to points in Canada and the American ports, as well as extending Dresden's well known hospitality to boat clubs from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Ontario.

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DRESDEN BOAT CLUB

Associations

KINETTE CLUB.....

Charter night for the Dresden Kinette Club was December 3, 1952 with 20 members, including the executive. President was Helen Weese; Vice President, Velma Brewer; Secretary, Irene McKay; Treasurer, Rose Bedell, Directors, Norma French, Lela Pegg, and Irene Weese.

Helping the Kinsmen "Serve the Community's Greatest Need", the new Kinettes first donation was to the proposed arena; in the year following, the Kinettes raised funds for many service organizations, both on a national and local scale; beginning with The National Institute for the Blind to Kent County Children's Aid Society.

In 1958 the Dresden Kinettes took charge of the local March of Dimes and have headed the campaign in following years.

The Kinettes have earned in their 15 years the special Myrtle Wilson trophy for their service in the community and with it the gratitude of Dresden residents. In keeping with the "service to the community" motto the Kinettes in 1967 have donated to the Boy Scout Hall, and will provide shrubs for the swimming area of the Kinsmen Park.

Directing the club's activities for 1967 is President Mrs. Lea Roberts; Vice President, Mrs. Douglas Wilson; Secretary, Mrs. Michael Wilmott; Treasurer, Mrs. Lloyd Jackson; and Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Keith Babcock.

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KINSMEN

The Kinsmen Club of Dresden was formed March, 1939, to serve the needs of the community. A special project organized for the first meeting was the acceptance of a donation to the Sunshine Fund for underprivileged children, thus setting a precedent for future Kinsmen.

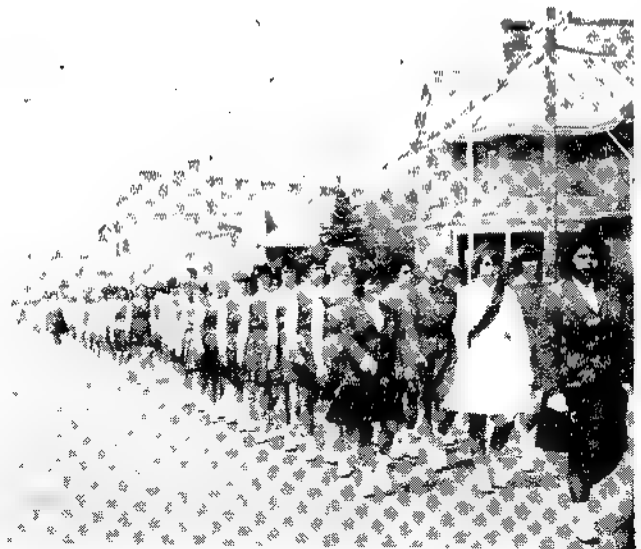
Charter membership was bestowed on the local club April 24, 1939 at a banquet held in the town hall to accommodate the Kinsmen and special guests attending. President Douglas Weese accepted the certificate for the club members. The first officers were: Vice-President, Landi Johnson; Secretary, Morris Sullivan; Assistant Secretary, Irvine Babcock; Treasurer, Wilson Clark; Directors, Dr. J. A. Ruttle, Dr. Harold French, Harold Carr, and Laurie Wells; Honorary members, Robert Brandon, Fire Chief Rufus Law, Mayor George Clark, and George Lawrence.

Entertainment at the charter meeting was furnished by a number of visiting Kinsmen and by the newly formed Dresden Kins. Band with Arthur Jeffries, James Burns, John Sharpe, Charles Ross, Glen Wicks, and Keith Wells.

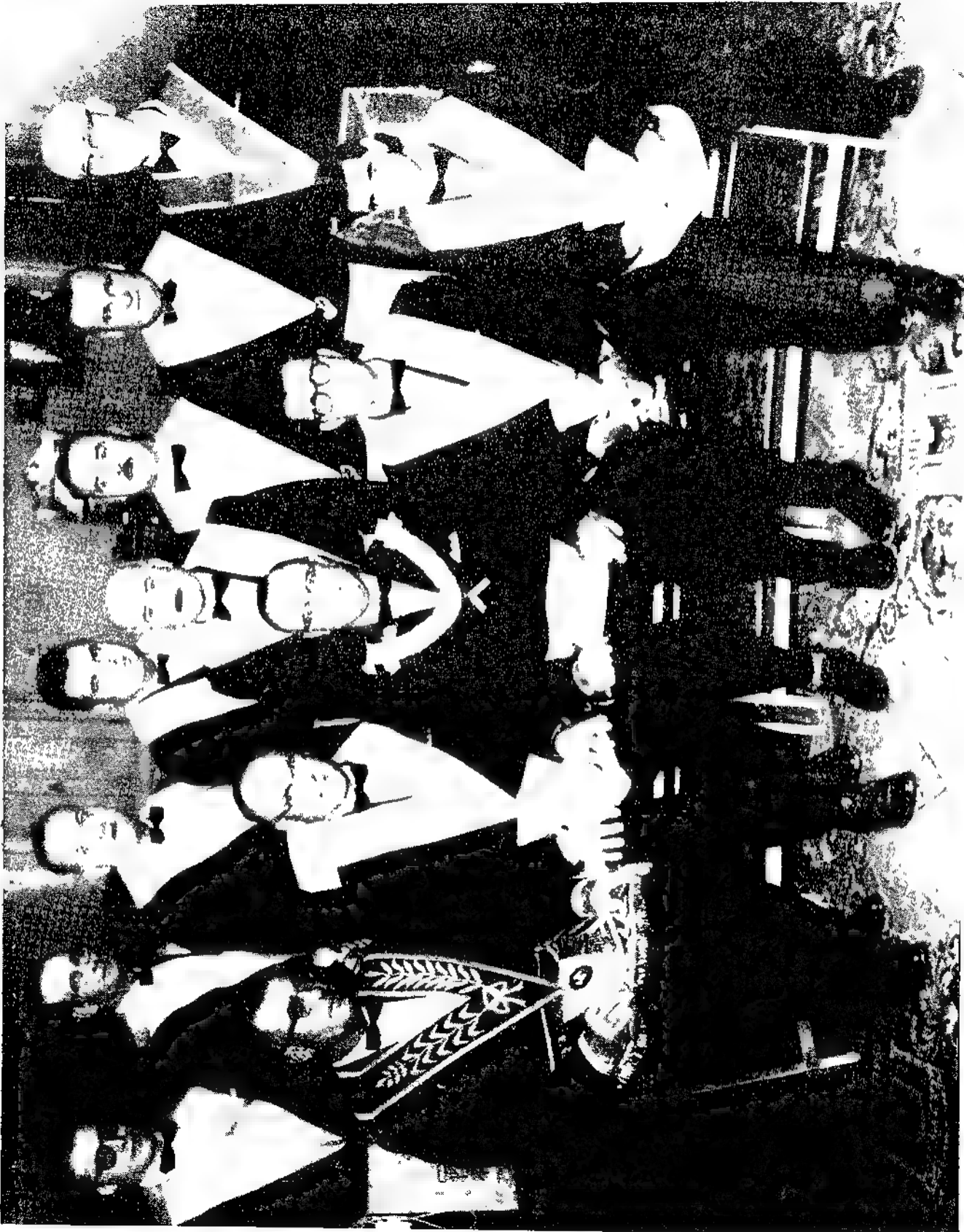
Through untiring efforts, the members of the Kinsmen have been successful in all their endeavours. The outstanding project is the ten acre Kinsmen Park with ball diamond, swimming pool and bath house, club rooms and picnic grounds. The Pet and Hobby show, Santa Claus parade and Rodeo are sponsored annually by the Dresden Kinsmen.

Directing the activities for the 1967-1968 club is President, Douglas Wilson; Vice President, James Babcock; Secretary, Walter McFadden; Treasurer, Michael Wilmott; registrar Lyle Houston, and Past President William Weese.

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1966 GIRL CADETS



MASONIC LODGE

CLUBS AND FATERAL GROUPS

SYDENHAM LODGE No. 225, A.F. & A.M.

Sydenham Lodge No. 255 was instituted on July 13, 1871 in Dresden, with Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario Most. Wor. Bro. Alexander Allen Stevenson of Montreal and District Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Bro. James Seymoy.

The charter members were: Hugh E. Winters, Harvey Morris, Wm. H. Switzer, Daniel G. Huff, Daniel H. Hicks, C. H. Hughes and officers of the lodge were Worshipful Master, Thomas Creighton McNabb; Senior Warden, Hugh Edmund Winter and Junior Warden, Harvey Morris.

The members of Dresden Masonic Lodge met in a frame building located on Main Street at the present site until 1910. On Christmas Eve a fire started on Main Street and spread through the block, destroying the lodge rooms and other buildings. The lodgerooms were rebuilt of brick and the building has been used for Masonic purposes through the years. Recently the lower floor has been made available for the Order of the Eastern Star for their Chapter Rooms.

Wor. Bro. John French was Master of the Lodge in 1877 and after served as secretary for many years.

Bringing honors to Sydenham Lodge No. 255 throughout the years are the following members of the Grand Lodge, and the years they served: Rt. Wor. J. B. Carscallen D.D.G.M. 1895--V. M. William Bedell; Rt. Wor. Dr. Walter Jeffs D.D.G.M. 1922--V. M. M. S. Blackburn; Rt. Wor. Russel R. Dusten D.D.G.M. 1935--V. M. John Houston; Rt. Wor. Roy E. Carscallen D.D.G.M. 1944 1945--V. M. Fay Craig; Rt. Wor. Harold E. Martin D.D.G.M. 1961 - 1962--V. M. Austin Forshee.

Members of Sydenham Lodge paid tribute to the following who have been Masons for 50 years or more; they are--William Parry, Detroit, Mich.; William Glasgow, Wallaceburg; Russel Dusten, Ronald McVean, Dresden; Donald Johnson, British Columbia; the late Roy C. Turner, Harold G. McVean and the late Gus Wickens. The newest member of Dresden Sydenham Lodge is William Foster, who was made a Master Mason in May 1967.

Present officers for 1967 are: Master, W. B. Arthur Cracknell; Senior Warden, B. Wilfred Brown; Chaplain, B. Stewart Living; Secretary, Rt. W. B. Harold L. Martin; J. D., B. Ross Card; S.S., B. George Davies; Inner Guard, B. George Smith; J.P.M., B. Ray Jackson; Junior Warden, Harold Gerrod; Treasurer, V. W. B. John E. Houston; S.D., B. Douglas Martin; D. of C., W. B. Gordon Alldred; J.S., B. Thomas Whitson; Tyler, W. B. William Webster.



McNABB CHAPTER No. 88, ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CANADA

McNabb Chapter No. 88, Royal Arch. Masons of Canada, received their Warrant of Constitution on October 25, 1911. Charter members were Companions; Thomas C. McNabb, Michael Houston, William L. Tachaberry, James Holmes, S. J. Bell, Sandy McVean, John French, Robert M. Stewart, Alva Westcott, E. W. Murray, Neville Smith and William Sparling.

The officers for the first Chapter were: 1st. P. Ex. C. Thomas McNabb; 2nd. P. Ex. C. Robert M. Stuart; 3rd. P. Ex. C. Sandy McVean.

Past Grand Superintendents from Dresden McNabb Chapter were: Rt. Ex. Comp. Frank Laird, 1918; Rt. Ex. Comp. Elmer Paling, 1936; Rt. Ex. Comp. Russel Dusten, 1946; Rt. Ex. Comp. Edward Logan, 1955 and Rt. Ex. Comp. Richard Cadwalleder, 1965.

Present officers of McNabb Chapter No. 88 for 1967 are 1st Principal, Ex. Comp. Thomas Whitson; 2nd Principal, Ex. Comp. Harold Martin; 3rd Principal, Ex. Comp. Harold Garrod.

* * * * *

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

On February 15, 1928, a group of men and women gathered in the Oddfellow's Hall in the Town of Dresden, to institute a new Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Dresden had been selected as the name of the new chapter, and officers were elected and approved by the Worthy Grand Patron at meetings held previously. Forty-seven of the 49 charter members were initiated at this meeting and the chapter officers installed with Grand Chapter members from Windsor and Chatham in the chairs.

The first officers of the Dresden chapter were: Worthy Matron, Bessie Weese; Worthy Patron, Fay Craig; Associate Matron, Florence Myers; Secretary, Verno Lawrence; Treasurer, Ethel Crowder; Conductress, Annie Gammage; Associate Conductress, Cummings Lawrence; Chaplain, Margery Holmes; Marshal, Estella Foster; Organist, Leone Craig; Adah, Marion Love; Ruth, Edith Madden; Esther, Jean Blackburn; Martha, Annie Francis; Electa, Beulah Holmes; Warder, Lena Houston; and Sentinel, Walter Lawrence. (At this time there was no Associate Patron.)

Charter was presented to the Dresden Chapter No. 183, O. E. S., on September 17, 1928 and in the following years the Chapter's work has covered many fields with patriotic service during the war years, and in recent times flood victims at home and abroad have benefited from gifts of clothing, food and money. The Boy Scout and Legion building funds have been aided, as well as the Florence Nightingale Home and Shriners Aid to Crippled Children. The Dresden Chapter joins with other organizations to honour the fallen soldiers each year on Remembrance Day, and gives assistance where needed.

Dedicated to Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness, the Chapter continues its work in 1967 with Worthy Matron Muriel McKim and Worthy Patron Thomas Ellis heading the officers.

Associations

I.O.D.E.

The Dresden Chapter of the Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire was founded on October 10, 1914 at the beginning of World War 1. Armies were then much more poorly supplied than at present and the military authorities were vainly attempting to supply the necessary food and weapons. It was customary for the women to help provide the troops with a few of the comforts of civilian life.

At a public meeting in October, 1914, an organizing committee was formed, composed of Mrs. Osgoode McVean, Mrs. Redmond D. Black, and Mrs. Robert Brandon. A week later three members of the 24th Kent Regiment Chapter assisted the group in Dresden to forward a Charter application, proposing 1. the name of Sydenham Chapter as first choice and 'Valcartier' as second choice; 2. Provisional officers were as follows:-

Regent - Mrs. Osgoode McVean
First Vice Regent - Mrs. Redmond Black
Second Vice Regent - Mrs. Thomas Convey
Secretary - Mrs. J. P. F. Williams
Treasurer - Miss Eva Aikin
Standard Bearer - Mrs. B. B. E. Tassie

And 3. Proposed motto 'We Live in Deeds'. The charter was issued to Sydenham Chapter on this basis.

Charter members or 'Mothers' of the Chapter were:- Mrs. Osgoode McVean, Mrs. Robert Brandon, Mrs. Thomas Convey, Mrs. J. P. F. Williams, Miss Eva Aikin, Mrs. B. B. E. Tassie, Mrs. H. S. McDonald, Miss Alice McVean, Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. Thomas Laird, and Mrs. Redmond Black.

The Chapter's flag was donated by Mrs. R. Black - the flag had been carried through the South African War.

The first regular meeting was held on November 6, 1914, with 106 members enrolled. Plans were immediately put in motion and the Chapter's first tea netted \$50.00. A bale of material was packed for the Belgian Relief Fund, and before Christmas the Chapter sent boxes to the soldiers who were training at Camp Carling, near London.

All through the war the I.O.D.E. worked to raise funds to provide comforts for the soldiers and even their dependents at home. In the month of July, 1915, 100 shirts, 100 pairs of socks, and 100 bandages were sent to a base hospital in France. The total income for 1915 was \$2,583.00 and the Chapter purchased one field kitchen, a machinegun for the 33rd Battalion. Mrs. George Horning, fondly known as 'Grannie' pieced 50 quilt tops which the Chapter had furnished, and sent to the Army.

In the fall of 1915, Kent County's own Battalion was formed -- the 186th Infantry, based in Chatham. The Chapter decided to supply the 1500 soldiers with socks, and a poem in the Chapter history reads:

"Thanks Lady, For the socks, some fir,
I used one for a helmet and one for a mitt,
Here's hoping to meet you, when I've done my bit,
But where in the world did you learn to knit?"

In 1916 a total of \$5,139.00 was raised as the women continued to knit and fill boxes with knitted articles, cigaree-candy and fruit cake. They also gathered junk to add to their funds.

At a location near Dolson's Red and White Store, a tea room was operated in 1918 to help finance the growing needs of the Chapter and in the first year the profits were \$3,312.00 with Mrs. George Felton in charge and assisted by Mrs. Robert Brandon.

Fulfilling the Chapter's motto 'We live in deeds', Dresden members organized a travelling kitchen in 1918, to bring hot food to those who were confined to bed, in the Influenza Epidemic as many households were unable to care for themselves.

After Armistice Day in 1918 the Chapter worked on to assist crippled soldiers, soldiers orphans and the starving peoples of Europe. Armistice Day Poppies were first sold by the I.O.D.E. until the Legion took over the project.

(Continued on page 65)



CENOTAPH

Associations

I.O.D.E.....

A Cenotaph was erected in 1922 to honour the war dead of W.W.I, and have added the names of the fallen heroes of W.W.II, as well as the Korean War. A plot was established in 1923 in the Dresden cemetery and was designated "Flanders Field" and a small cross erected in memory of each of the district men who died in, or as a result of the war. After W.W.II, a second field with crosses commemorates the men of this war and one cross in memory of Dresden's only soldier, Raymond Enos, killed in the Korean War.

Mrs. R.D. McAlpine became the second Regent of the Chapter - 1932, and she continued in that office until 1947, and is Honorary Vice Regent.

Peacetime, the Chapter established their educational work, beginning with scholarships and prizes to local students, and reaching national and even international students of men killed or permanently disabled. Flags, libraries, and pictures were distributed to schools and public buildings.

Working with the blind the Chapter sent a boy to school in Brantford for 8 years, and a girl to learn braille and handicrafts. In 1939 the C.N.I.B. offered to take over if the Chapter could not meet its obligations, as a result the I.O.D.E. in Dresden worked even harder and once again they went into the junk business.

The Sydenham Chapter's name was changed to Catherine McVean after the first Regent Mrs. Osgoode McVean, on October 26, 1936.

Every corner of the country was searched for special help, a Northern school was adopted and assisted in 1939 along with the Chapter's regular donations to educational fields.

The outbreak of W.W.II found that the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire were organized coast to coast, and each Chapter gave unmeasurable service during that conflict.

Classes in English for new Canadians were established after the War and some of whom have become respected citizens in their adopted country. The Chapter sponsored several at the Naturalization Court in Chatham. A good share of the flags in Dresden and community were presented to the school or organization by the Dresden Chapter.

By 1960 the members had become excellent knitters and the Chapter sent clothing to the children of Korea and other far away places, a donation was sent for a new Eskimo Hall being built in the Arctic, a German boy adopted in 1957, and the annual Valentine Luncheon provides funds for his welfare.

Giving almost 150 hours of voluntary service each year, the members truly "Live in Deeds" in service to their fellow man and country.

Regents

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1914 - 1932 | - | Mrs. Osgoode McVean |
| 1932 - 1947 | - | Mrs. R.D. McAlpine |
| 1947 - 1952 | - | Mrs. Harold French |
| 1952 - 1954 | - | Mrs. Gordon Clark |
| 1954 - 1957 | - | Mrs. Francis Foster |
| 1958 - 1959 | - | Mrs. Gordon Spence |
| 1960 - 1961 | - | Mrs. Francis Foster |
| 1962 - 1964 | - | Mrs. Arthur Hoyles |
| 1965 - 1967 | - | Mrs. George Blandford |

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Associations

LEGION.....

The Dresden Branch of the Canadian Legion was first established in 1923 under the Great War Veterans Association and called the Eberlee Post 113. It operated under this charter until the Royal Canadian Legion was established in 1925. Elected officers in 1931 were: President, Rev. S. M. Sweetman. Vice Presidents: E. J. Kyle and George Moore. Secretary was J. Ward. and the Executive Directors were Major LeGrand, Lewis Wilmott and Sydney Markham.

With more than 60 members, the local branch was reorganized in 1946, when they received the Charter retaining the former number '113' and became a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. The President was Orvell Bishop, 1st Vice President, Jack Oliphant; 2nd Vice President David Bowers; Secretary-Treasurer, Ernest Wilmott; Sergeant-at-Arms, Tom Monk; Executive directors, Alexander Blackburn, L. G. Wells and Allen Law.

The former Green Mountain Hotel and property was purchased and a new Legion Hall erected with formal opening ceremonies in the summer of 1949. Actively participating in all local activities, the branch sponsors baseball, hockey, the public speaking contest for school children each year, and co-sponsor the Gala Nights with the Kinsmen and provide prizes for the 'best float' entered in the two-day event.

Keeping faith with their fallen comrades, the Legion takes part in the Remembrance Day services at the Dresden Cemetery and the Cenotaph. They also honour the heroes on Old Comrades Night. Supporting and spearheading the Salvation Army's Red Shield Drive each year, the Legion helps relieve the suffering and hunger. The local branch also remembers the veterans of both World Wars and the Korean War, by taking an active part in a variety show at the Westminster Hospital in London.

Various fund raising projects each year enable the Legion to contribute to the Kinsmen swimming pool and other worthy organizations in the community. Recreation for Legionnaires and guests range from card parties to dances at the clubrooms where weekly Saturday night dances dominate the scene.

Legion members who are outdoor enthusiasts have the area grounds for boat docking, picnics or just resting beneath the stately willows lining the river banks.

Officers elected to direct the Legion's 1967 program are: President, Harold Heddon; 1st Vice President, Wm. Lewis; 2nd Vice President, Ted McCabe; Secretary-Treasurer, Roy Whitson; Sergeant-at-Arms, Anthony Vissers; Executive directors, James Manderson, Harvey Sutton, Archibald Smith, Eugene Huff, Harold Law, and Donald Hancock.

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LADIES AUXILIARY.....

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 113 Dresden, was organized in 1947. On February 18, 1948 the Provincial President, Mrs. Vera Cameron, attended the meeting for the election of officers. There were, President; Peggy Markham 1st Vice President; Bessie Dustin, 2nd Vice President; Amelia Richards, Secretary; Bessie Ball, Corresponding Secretary; Bar Whitson, Treasurer; Jean Dunlop, Standard Bearer; Gladys Houston, Executive officers; Marie Sutton, Nellie Oliphant, Pearl Farnsworth, and Leta Saunders.

Other charter members were; Edith Clark, Mary McDougal, Marion Lennon, Mildred Richards, Florence Jackson, Liona Hous- Ellen Christner, Doris Richards, Helen Ripley, Mary London, and Elsie Hunter.

The aim of the Auxiliary is to support the Legion Branch and to assist them when asked. In this capacity, the auxiliary has contributed special donations in the past 19 years. For example, the annual Remembrance Day Banquet is served. The project for 1966 was a plaque that was placed in the entrance of the Legion commemorating the men from the Dresden area who lost their lives in W. W. I and W. W. II and the Korean War. Christmas boxes are packed each year and forwarded to district men in the Service. The Auxiliary shares the expense with the Legion. Regular visits are made to Westminster Hospital by the members. They have also donated a television, record player and records, along with books which are projected on the ceiling for the Veteran who can only be in a reclining position.

'Gordie' a patient at Westminster Hospital in the Psychiatric Building, having no family, was adopted by the Auxiliary in 1931. The remembrances of the group have helped bring beneficial results to 'Gordie' who considers the hospital his home. Proceeds from the annual Poppy Tea, bake sale, and bazaar assist the Westminster Hospital. A substantial contribution is made to the Ladies Auxiliary Provincial Command Royal Canadian Legion Scholarship Fund, which provides assistance to children of veteran's who wish to advance their education. The auxiliary spearheads the annual drive for funds for the Mental Health and join other organizations with the Cancer, March of Dimes and for the Blind. In honour of the late Mayor Walter Weese a Valet-dictorian plaque was given to the New Lambton Kent District High School in 1952.

Beauty has not been neglected in the Auxiliary and they sponsored the Coronation Queen, coronation Ball in 1953, the Dresden Centennial Queen and Ball in 1954, and one of the highlights of 1967 was the crowning of Dresden's Canadian Centennial Queen by the Mayor John Finley at the Centennial ball held on June 30. Queen Lynne Sanderson and her two attendants Miss Jackie Lambkin were the young ladies honoured.

The 60 members of the Ladies Auxiliary to The Royal Canadian Legion Dresden Branch No 113 elected the following officers for 1967; President; Jean Teeter, 1st Vice President; Nancy Kimber, 2nd Vice President; Mary McDougal, Secretary; Mary London, Treasurer; Mary Graham, Sergeant-at-arms; Eva Markham, Executive officers; Jean Huff; Irma Blommaert, Peggy Markham, and Marion Pretty.

PRESIDENT'S ROSTER

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1949 - Bessie Dustin | 1959 - 1960 - Helen Ripley |
| 1950 - Hazel Stanley | 1961 - Nancy Kimber |
| 1951 - Mildred Richards | 1962 - 1963 - Alice Manderson |
| 1952 - Jean Teeter | 1964 - 1965 - Margaret Hedden |
| 1956 - Jean Teeter | 1966 - Grace Sutton |
| 1957 - 1958 - Eva Markham | 1967 - Jean Teeter |



AERIAL VIEW OF DRESDEN

I.O.O.F.....

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted on January 8, 1874 and named Dresden Lodge No. 124. The Lodge met in the present building on St. George Street. They leased the property until about 1874 when it was purchased from Alexander Terrice. He had constructed the three storey brick building a year or two before.

Charter members of the Lodge were some of Dresden's most prominent residents. Among them were Richard Wallace, John D. Graham, Daniel D. Williston, Samuel McBride and Robert F. Rudd. The Odd Fellows, a lodge of a fraternal and service nature, held regular meetings in the brick lodge rooms located on the third floor. In 1896 a fire started on that level and before it could be controlled the lodge was destroyed and along with it most of the books and records. The lodge rooms were soon renovated and lodge meetings continued. Officers of Dresden No. 124 I.O.O.F. for the year 1900 were: Noble Grand, Thomas Elgie; Vice Noble Grand, John Watson; Secretary-Treasurer, S. Shaw; Recording Secretary, Dr. W. D. Wiley, and Treasurer, W. Ward.

Besides the many social functions enjoyed by lodge members and guests, the Odd Fellows are actively helping all those in distress, especially widows and children. Visiting the sick and bringing them gifts with a cheerful demeanour is undertaken by all the members.

Through card parties, dinners, and other events, the lodge raises funds for the World Eye Bank, Cancer, Polio, Tuberculosis, and other national welfare foundations. After W.W.II, the Dresden Lodge donated a specially equipped automobile for one of Dresden's young soldiers wounded in the war. The Dresden Lodge No. 124 sponsor the Youth Pilgrimage each year. This involves two local youths visiting the United Nations as guests of the Odd Fellows. In all their charities the Odd Fellows work closely with the Rebekah Lodge.

Dresden Lodge in District No. 3 is proud of their drill team. It is reported to be the best in the jurisdiction. The 38 man team drilled before the Grand Lodge in Toronto in 1954, gaining special honours for the Home Lodge.

To compare the expenses of the early lodge to the present day, the tax bill in 1892 was \$126.00, and progressing with the country, the property taxes for the year 1967 were over \$1,000.00.

Elected officers for the current year are: Noble Grand Carman W. Perry; Vice Noble Grand, Robert Langstaff; Secretary-Treasurer, Hugh Latimer; Financial Secretary, Stan Dudy; and the Treasurer, Gordon Wees.

In co-operation with the Rebekah Lodge the Odd Fellows maintain, for the use of anyone in need, hospital beds, wheel chairs, crutches and other sick room equipment free of charge for as long as the article is required.

Oldest member of Dresden No. 124 is Ben Wells who has been an active Odd Fellow for more than 50 years.

FAIRPORT REBEKAH LODGE.....

The Odd Fellows' Lodge in Dresden, active for many years, was instrumental in helping the petitioners organize the Rebekahs in 1943.

Twenty-four applicants received the Rebekah degree at Wallaceburg and, with the assistance of Mrs. Emma French and Mrs. Jennie Cambell, the Dresden Rebekahs were prepared to become instituted.

Fairport was chosen for their name, and on March 29, 1943 the staff of the Rebekah Assembly instituted Fairport Rebekah Lodge at a special meeting, installing the first officers who were: Noble Grand, Maggie Ball; Vice Grand, Amy Martin; Recording Secretary, Helen Latimer; Financial Secretary, Margaret McKim; Treasurer, Bessie Hugh; Warder, Lela Pegg; Conductor, Doris Vansickle; Chaplain, Madge Foster; Inside Guardian, Marjorie Eves; Outside Guardian, Phyllis Tuckwell; Musician, Jean Hugh; and Junior Past Noble Grand, Emma French.

Funds from catered dinners, banquets, card parties, Christmas cake sale, and making quilts have enabled the Rebekahs to assist the Girl Guides, Brownies, Boy Scouts, the building fund for the Lambton-Kent Arena, Cancer, Polio, T.B. Fund and the special service of hospital beds, wheel chairs, crutches, and walkers to anyone in need of sick room equipment.

Fairport Rebekahs Lodge has been honoured to have elected to the District Deputy Presidency three members; Mrs. Amy Martin in 1947, Mrs. Leota Martin in 1952 and Mrs. Grace Martin in 1964. (the three Mrs. Martins, although from the Fairport Lodge, are not related).

Taking an active part in Canada's Centennial celebrations, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs staged an "Old Time Musical" with proceeds from the first night donated to the Cancer, Polio, T.B. Fund, and the third performance money to the Dresden Boy Scouts.

Fairport Rebekah Lodge numbers 118 members in 1967, with Noble Grand Helen Jenkins; Vice Grand, Nancy Houston; Recording Secretary, Mary Martin; Financial Secretary, Leota Martin; and Treasurer, Norma Latimer, officiating at the meetings each first and third Tuesday of the month.

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Essex and Joanne VanDyke

Associations

LOYAL ORANGE ORDER.....

Possibly the first fraternal organization in Dresden was the Loyal Orange Lodge, established in 1855 with the Warrent issued from the Grand Lodge and given the number 638.

The Worshipful Master, Patrick Bodkin, presided over lodge meetings in the home of William Wright and in the home of Peter T. Traxler in the year 1858. On July 19, 1867 Lodge No. 638 moved again, this time to the settlement of Keith, located west of Dresden about 4 miles on the present No. 78 Highway. A new hall was erected across from the Keith School on property owned by Samuel Shaw in 1875.

Dresden was again given a charter when the required number of men and certain other formalities were completed. The Loyal Orange Lodge No. 850 met in Dresden at the home of John Fretz in 1878 and remained in Dresden until 1885, when the lodge was moved to Tupperville.

Members of L.O.L. No. 850 met in the home of William Wickens until the new Orange Hall was built in 1891, about a mile south of Tupperville. The building was moved into Tupperville at the present location in 1910 and in the same year

Lodges No. 638 and 850 joined and they became one lodge which is still active.

The charter for Lodge No. 1998 was issued April 13, 1908. The Worshipful Master at that time was Adam Irwin, and the Lodge had a large membership including a Women's Lodge later, and the two used the hall on the second floor on St. George and Brown Streets.

Dresden Lodge was host to the annual Orange Walk in 1955, with many Canadian and United States Lodges attending. The parade formed on the west side of Jackson Park at 1:30 P. M. sharp and the parade, which was two miles long, marched through the streets and at the point of Hughes and St. George St. the parade began a counter march. When the rear of the parade marched through the remainder of the parade until finally the front and back had turned positions making their way back to the park.

Although the Lodge at Dresden was very active, interest began to decline after the war years and Dresden Lodge No. 1998 is at present not conducting regular sessions.

* * * * *

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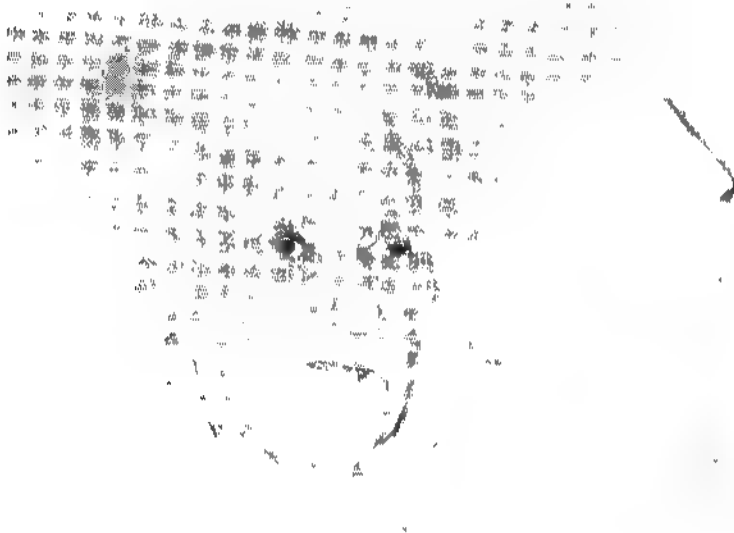
Associations

DAVIES NURSING HOME.....

Selected for its central location, the Davies Nursing Home at North and Hughes Streets was opened March 1965 by Mr. and Mrs. George Davies for the area's senior residents.

Formerly the Robert Aikin residence, one of Dresden's earliest business men, the home was renovated to meet the standards of a registered nursing home, and managed to retain its former appearance.

Residents in the nursing home, accustomed to comfortable homes and friendly neighbours, find little difficulty in adjusting to the homelike atmosphere. There is a registered nurse in attendance at all times to care for their particular needs.



MRS. BRIDGETTE BURNS,
DRESDEN CENTENARIAN

TASTY TREAT DRIVE-IN



BEAUTY QUEEN.....

When Canada celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1927, one outstanding national event was a beauty contest. Citizens voted for the candidate of their choice, who became Miss Ontario, Nova Scotia, or the province of her home. The provincial beauties were then eligible to enter the Miss Dominion of Canada finals.

Dresden's entry was the very beautiful Miss Annie McKinnon and a proud town rejoiced when Miss McKinnon became Miss Ontario.

To add a touch of glamour, the Dresden Fair Board sponsored a beauty contest, the winner to reign at the Civic Holiday events for 1934. Miss Hazel Stewart won the Miss Dresden crown and proceeded to Windsor where she claimed the title of Miss Western Ontario in competition with many other beautiful girls.

The following year at the Civic Holiday celebrations, Monday, August 5, 1935, Miss Daisy Hyatt was judged the most beautiful girl in Dresden and she also went to Windsor and was awarded second in the Miss Western Ontario pageant.

Miss Marguerite Van DeCavey won the Miss Dresden title in 1943 and again in 1944 at the Dresden Fair Board contest.

For Canada's Centennial year, the Auxiliary to the Dresden Branch of the Canadian Legion sponsored a contest to choose Dresden's most beautiful girl to preside over celebrations throughout 1967. Miss Lynn Sanderson was selected Dresden's Centennial Queen and chosen her court were Miss Jackie Lambkin and Miss Angela Somr.



BEAUTY QUEEN 1985

Associations

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN AND MUSEUM.....

Dresden, widely known as the home of the British American Institute and home of the founder, the Rev. Josiah Henson, since 1852, when Harriet Beecher Stowe published the novel 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' to bring attention to the plight of the negro slaves, has had countless visitors to Henson's gravesite which is located one mile west of Dresden on the third concession Camden Shore.

William Chapple, a grandson of the first village clerk, restored the home of Josiah Henson in 1947 and conducted tours

while relating the history of the former owner.

The Henson Home, popularly known as 'Uncle Tom's Cabin', was acquired by J. D. Thomson in 1965 and moved to the original site where additional buildings were built to house the displays of items pertinent to the era, including the pulpit from the British Methodist Episcopal Church, where Josiah Henson ministered for many years to the spiritual needs of his colonists.

His grave, in the family cemetery adjacent to the museum, was declared an Historic Site in 1965, and is visited annually by thousands from early spring to late fall.



REV. JOSIAH HENSON

PROFESSIONAL

MEDICAL DOCTORS.....

In the area's early development, ailing residents were treated with home remedies, handed down from generation to generation, because this was the only remedy available. A scarlet fever medication, reported in a weekly journal in 1840, advised 1 to 5 drops of Nightshade to one ounce of water for children ages one to 10. A coal oil dressing for wounds used by an assistant surgeon at Gettysburg claimed "to dispel flies, vermin and sweeten the wound."

Dr. W. E. Winters, physician at Dresden in 1865, was busy combating the scourge of ignorance and illness. Also at Dresden in 1868 was S. J. Clarke, M. D., who operated a drug store.

Another early physician, Dr. J. Reynold Pomeroy, was a valued member of the community. In the 1870's Dr. Galbraith served the village for many years. His office at first was located on Metcalfe Avenue, and later he moved to St. George Street.

At the site of the present Toronto-Dominion Bank, a building was occupied by Dr. Bullis in 1885. He was a graduate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons at Kingston. Joining Dr. Bullis a short time later, Dr. J. I. Wiley, a graduate of Trinity Medical College, Toronto, practiced until Dr. Bullis left. A brother of Dr. Wiley was a partner in keeping the same office until Dr. J. I. Wiley's home and office was completed on the opposite corner.

Practicing medicine a good many years until his death in 1935, was Dr. McDonald. A new physician entered into practice with his father-in-law, Dr. Wiley, about 1900. The young doctor was R. D. McAlpine, who after the elder doctor's death, took charge of the practice. Dr. McAlpine remained in Dresden, serving the community until his death.

Dresden's pioneer lady doctor was Dr. Sarah McVean, who opened her office around 1910, but left in a short time to practice in a larger community.

Beginning his practice in 1935 was a local young man who had played on the Dresden Ball Team, and until Dr. J. A. Ruttle's home and office were built, he used an office of Dr. Webster on North Street.

About a year later, Dr. L. G. Payne, also from the Dresden area, used the office of Dr. Webster's and remained there until his new office and clinic were built a short distance north on St. George Street.

After World War II, the town of Dresden welcomed Dr. P. B. Moorhead, whose office is located on Brown Street and Dr. P. Laird Gibbs, located at the present time on North Street.

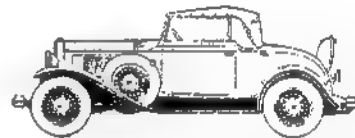
LIZZIE

Her name was Lizzie an old 1 Ford
With isinglass curtains and a running board.
An iron bar that was the devil's own.
When cranking the fly it broke many bones.

A windshield high that folded in half.
Wood spoke wheels, the people would laugh.
When in a rut she'd flounder, of course,
Then call out loudly, "Go get a horse."

The springs underneath were stiff and flat
Go over a bridge, better hang on your hat,
The salesman said, "any colour you dream
When he sold it new, 'If its black - I mean."

Each owner became his own mechanic
The manual was clear, no need to panic.
Roads, plus the car, would shake out the liver
But proud we were of the Old Tin Flivver.



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SPORTS

LAWN BOWLING.....

The Lawn Bowling Club of Dresden was established around 1900. Among the first members were Dr. J. L. Wiley, Dr. H. S. McDonald and G. E. Weir, the attorney. The first lawn bowling green was located at the west end of Queen Street, where games between rinks from Chatham, Ridgetown, Petrolia, and other nearby places competed in matches.

When the Rudd Carriage Shop on the corner of Robinson and North Streets discontinued operations, the club purchased the property, making a full sized rink. In order to purchase the site, about 40 businessmen each contributed 25 dollars to pay for the land and complete the construction of the green.

The new green was purchased by trustees of the Lawn Bowling Club, consisting of Dr. H. S. McDonald, Thomas Conway and Ben Madden. Other supporters of the club at that time were Duncan Pattison, Roy Carscallen and Charles Aikin. To open the new green, a grand tournament was held on an afternoon in 1919 and clubs from London to Windsor were among the contestants. The games did not finish until three o'clock the next morning.

With many of the charter members deceased, interest in the game dwindled and in 1935 a part of the large green was sold to Dr. J. A. Ruttle for a home and office. The remainder of the land was sold to the Union Gas Company for their new office in 1955, and the bowling green was located on a section of the Kinsmen Park.

The Dresden Lawn Bowling Club has won several honours and achievements throughout the years. In 1966, three Dresden members won for the local club the Colt Trebles trophy in the Ontario Provincial Championship playoffs, held at Brantford. Colt bowlers are those who have been bowling five years or less.

The Dresden Club competes in the District I of the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association, which is made up of 11 area clubs.

A modern clubhouse and 12 greens accommodate the 40 or so male members and the 20 ladies of the Dresden Bowling Association.

* * * * *

BASEBALL.....

From the scrub team on the vacant lot to the uniformed boy at Jackson Park, the cheers of the spectators mark Dresden as a 'Baseball Town' each summer.

The earliest record of organized baseball in Dresden is May 15, 1890. A junior club was formed for boys to age 18. F. Johnson was secretary-treasurer, and John Eglin was team captain. Dresden succeeded in winning the Baseball Cup on July 1, 1915, outplaying the seven other teams in the league.

Many players on the Dresden teams have been outstanding; but, because of lack of space, only names of some of the early players shall be here recorded. They are Rowboat Thompson, who later, in 1931, became manager of a junior team, "Chappe" Adkin, Walter McFadden, Widmer Bedell, Clayton Lucas, Francis (Red) Brewer, and William Bear.

The foregoing were not all on the same teams. Most prominent among the "cheer leaders" were Fred Steeper and R. Campbell.

Many baseball trophies have been won by the Dresden teams, including the Ontario Baseball Association Junior "C" crown in 1965.

HOCKEY.....

At the end of baseball season in the fall, Dresden becomes the "Hockey Town" of Kent County. The teams in the Dresden Hockey Association compete with various leagues for the Hockey Championship trophies.

Ice hockey's beginnings in Dresden are obscure. The game is a combination of bandy ball and la crosse, played by the early French Canadians. It seems reasonable to assume the hardy pioneers played the sport game which was to become Canada's national sport.

Space on the river east of the bridge was cleared of snow each winter for the skaters and for hockey games between the church and club groups. Interested citizens donated electric lights for the night games played on the river in 1923. The first organized hockey team soon was formed.

The first organized hockey club known was called "The Dresden Green Shirts." At first they played against teams from Tupperville and other nearby communities. In 1930, the town council agreed to provide a rink at the Market Square with lights, a water hose for sprinkling and a dressing room. The club agreed to operate the rink, giving the town fifty per cent of the proceeds of each game. Around this time, Dresden was a member of the Kent League. The other teams from Wallaceburg, Thamesville, Kent Bridge, played scheduled games where Dresden became a formidable foe in the race for the League Championship.

The Olympene Trophy, newly donated, was won by Dresden Green Shirts in 1934. The club continued to win honours for the players and town until the 2nd World War, when many of the players left to join the armed services. In the early 1940's the Dresden Green Shirts retired until after the war, when hockey clubs again organized and used the indoor rink at Wallaceburg.

When the Lambton-Kent Arena was built in 1954, hockey clubs were reorganized in the Minor Hockey Association for boys from the very youngest to the 21 year old youth. Teams in the association are the Squirts, Bantams, Pee Wees and Midgets, who play in the East Kent Hockey League, and the older boys in the Juvenile team are active contenders in the Blue Water League. Dresden Junior Kings, with boys from 12 to 21, are in the Shamrock League, and were the 1966 champions.

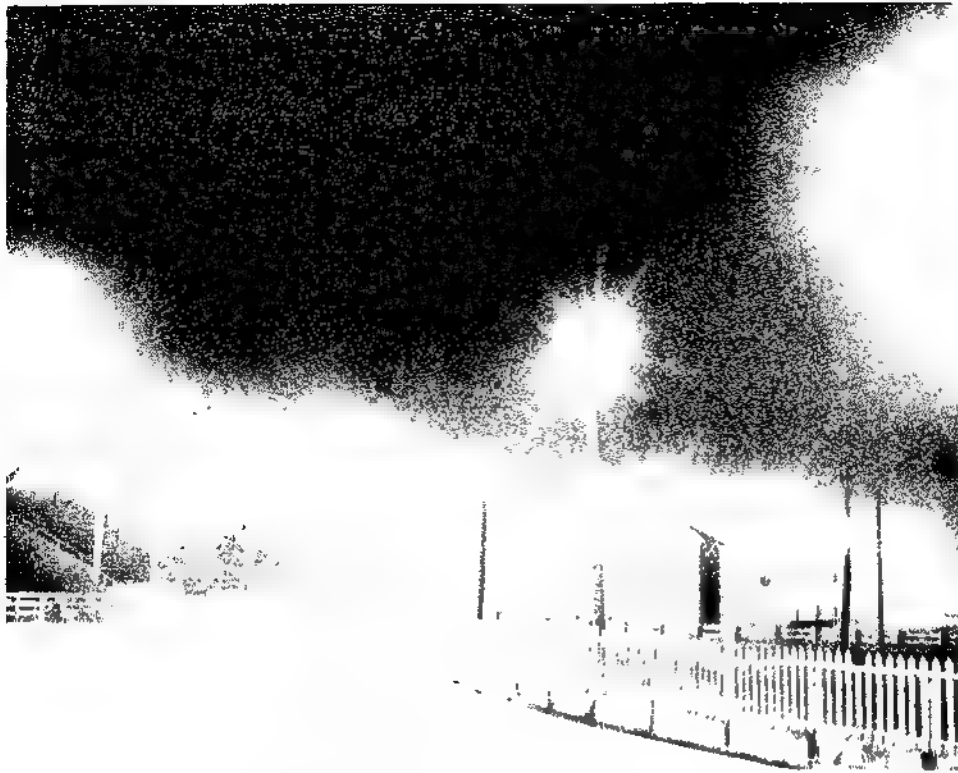
To give public recognition to a person who has faithfully supported the activities of hockey, a search was made for Mr. Hockey by votes submitted to the Minor Hockey Association. At the Annual Hockey Banquet, held in the Lambton-Kent Arena, May 30, 1967, the 'Mr. Hockey' Trophy, donated by a town businessman, William Concannon, was presented to Roy 'Bill' Johnston.

* * * * *

More than 200 boys are presently enrolled in the six teams. The Tyke, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget teams are sponsored by and trained by the Dresden Kinsmen. Two older boys' teams; the Juveniles and Juniors are under the direction of the Dresden Branch of the Legion.

Merchants of the town divided into two groups to play a ball game in 1933. The unique teams were Fat men against the Thin men. No official score was recorded, but spectators were likely treated to some unusual entertainment.

Sports



RACING UNDER THE LIGHTS



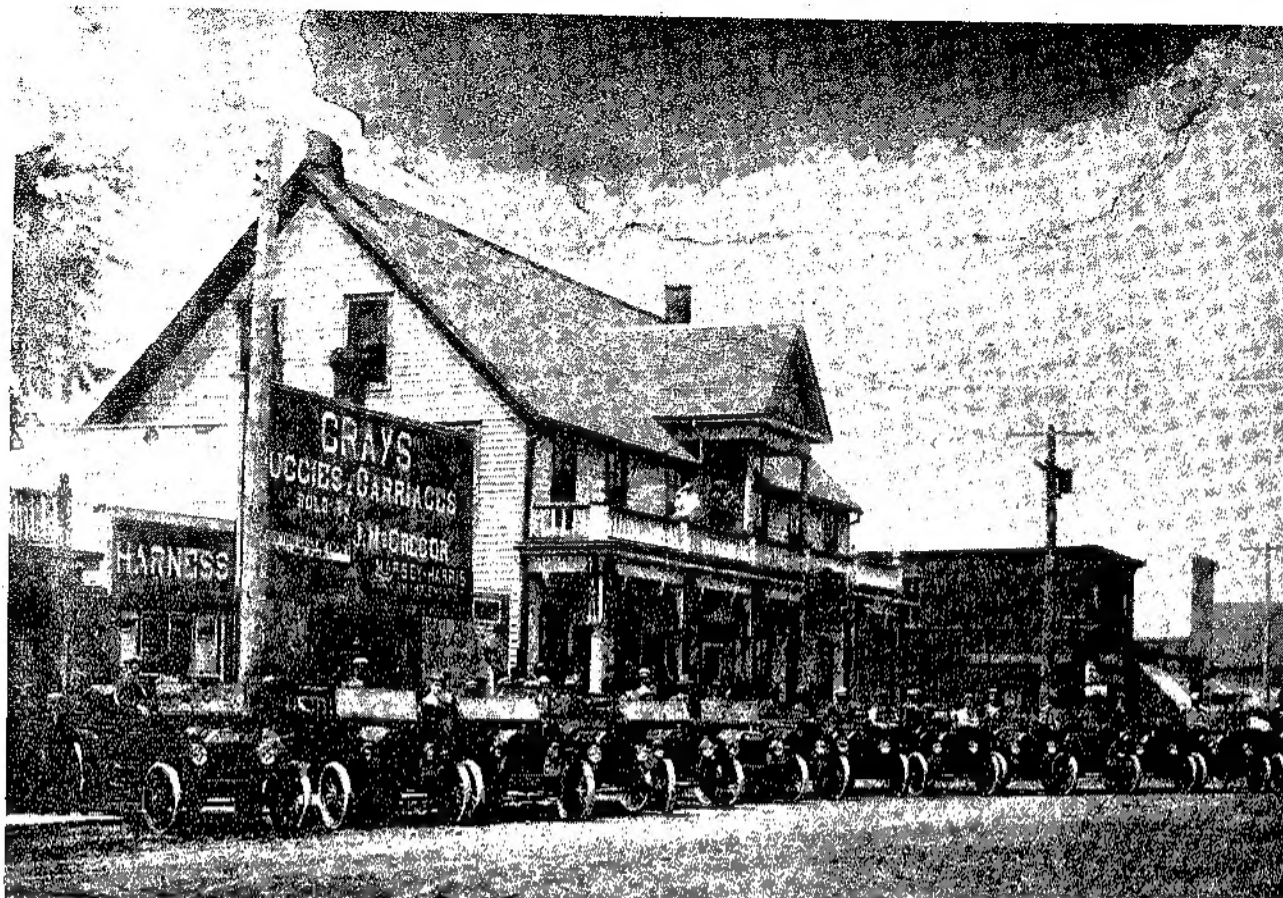
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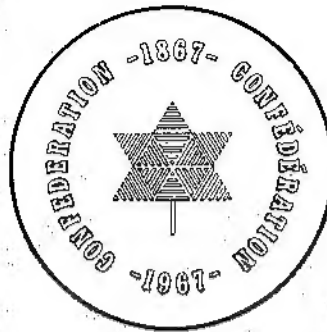
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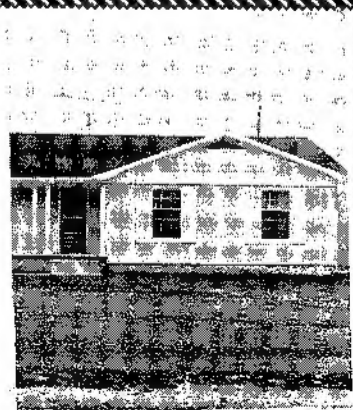
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OF
DISTINCTION

BY
**TRAVIS
BROTHERS
BLDRS.**

Lloyd Travis
Wilfred Travis
Jerry Travis
John Robbins



A DAY OF FUN WITH NO ADMISSION CHARGE

DRESDEN

Centennial Celebration

SAT., JULY 1, 1967

... A Full Day ...

- 8.00 - 10.30 — Breakfast at Czech Hall, sponsored by Kinsmen Club.
10.30 - 11.00 — Tug of War. Jamaicans vs Kinsmen. At Kinsmen Park.
10.30 - 12.00 — Wild West Show. Bud Martin & Troupe. Kinsmen Park.
10.30 — Keystone Cops start their day's frolic, with "Kangaroo Court" and "Lockup." All good natured fun.
11.00 - 12.00 — Cricket Match. Jamaican Teams. Kin Park.
12.00 - 1.00 — Picnic Lunch at Kinsmen and Jackson Parks. Bring your own Lunch. Free Tables. Optimist Club's Rolling Chuck Wagon will dispense cold drinks.
12.00 - 1.00 — Smorgasbord Lunch available at Bill's Novelty Shop.
12.30 - 2.00 — Lawn Bowling Tourney. Kinsmen Park.
1.00 - 1.30 — Jamaican Relay Race. New and Different. Kinsmen Park.
1.00 - 3.00 — Old Timers' Ball Game at Kinsmen Park.
3.00 - 3.30 — Swimming & Diving Exhibition. Kinsmen Park.
3.00 - 4.30 — Jamaican Soccer Match. Kinsmen Park.
4.30 — Parade of 40 Floats and 6 Bands. Forms up at School Grounds in North Dresden, and Proceeds to Fair Grounds.
6.30 - 7.30 — Supper Hour. Refreshment Booth at Fair Grounds.
7.30 - 9.30 — At Fair Grounds: Massed Choir; Calypso Band, Limbo Demonstrations, Beard Judging and Other Amusements.
9.30 - 10.00 — Fair Grounds: Firework Display under supervision of the Dresden-Camden Fire Department.
10.00 - 12.00 — Street Dance on Main Street, Dresden.



**Come
Early!
Stay
Late!**



**Centennial
Costumes
Will Be
Welcomed!**



**Parade - Bands - Beards - Baseball - Cricket
Keystone Cops - Street Dance - Fun for All**